



COME TO 3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE



WAVERLY, Tenn.—When a railroad tank car containing propane exploded, killing 12 people and destroying downtown Waverly, members of Tri-County REACT Team #3076 came from widely scattered locations to lend assistance. The photo shows a portion of the tanker resting against a car belonging to the city's police chief who was burned to death. Man at left is the assistant fire chief attempting to aid the police chief. (Photo credit: Richard McCoy III)

Train Explosion Brings REACT Aid

(Ed. note: The media have recently been filled with stories of disastrous train wrecks. This is how REACTers responded to one of them.)

CAMDEN, Tenn.—When an unexpected disaster occurs, minutes and even seconds count. Quick coordination between REACTers and other emergency personnel who are miles apart can often mean the difference between life and death.

At 2:55 p.m., Friday, February 24, a railroad tanker filled with some 28,000 gallons of liquid propane exploded, destroying the heart of Waverly, Tenn. Within five minutes, 40 miles away in Springville, Tenn., Robert Hills, a volunteer fireman and a past president of Tri-County REACT Team #3076,

received a call for assistance on Channel 9. "We learned first that there was an explosion and then that they needed help badly," Hills recalled later. "All the units were being directed to tune to Channel 9."

At about the same time, Larry Sykes, also a volunteer fireman and a past president of the Tri-County team, was 50 miles from Waverly at Paris Landing when word reached him that chemical foam from the Paris Landing Volunteer Fire Department was needed in Waverly.

Hills and Sykes made radio contact on Channel 9 and Hills was able to direct Sykes through a

Continued on Page 2

REACTers Will Meet at Baldwin-Wallace College Near Cleveland, Ohio, on August 10-13

The theme will be "Building Better REACT Teams" when REACT's Third International Leadership Conference convenes August 10-13. The site is Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio.

Hundreds of REACTers from all over North America are expected to converge on the beautiful B/W campus in suburban Cleveland for 3½ days of meetings, workshops and exchanging ideas—during and after hours!

Expert, professional advice and instruction will be available on subjects of vital interest to Team leaders. Important aspects of Team organization, management and promotion will be addressed in general sessions.

All REACT members will be interested in several special presentations by International Headquarters, including movies, a REACT program overview, and some very special awards.

One of the highlights of the week-end will be the introduction of the new members joining the

REACT International Board of Directors. Teams around the world are involved in the nomination process for expanding "field representation" in REACT's highest governing body.

As in the past, speakers will represent key organizations with whom REACT cooperates, such as the F.C.C., U.S. Department of Transportation, Red Cross, Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, ARRL, National Weather Service, and more!

The Baldwin-Wallace campus is only a few minutes from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, and it's just as close to the intersection of three Interstate highways.

Full information, including registration forms, will be sent to all Teams. Space is available in the college dormitories for all who want to take advantage of the economical room/board package. Nearby hotels and motels provide a little more luxury, accommodations for families, and convenient access to the campus.

Team Helps Flood Victims

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — Members of Simi Valley REACT Team C-729 seemed to be running four ways at once when severe flooding threatened the area early in March.

The REACTers' work began on Friday, March 3, when it appeared that the Marr Dam would break due to heavy rains. Residents of a subdivision known as the Texas Tract had to be evacuated. Eight REACTers, all of them certified by the Red Cross as proficient in administering first aid, set up a disaster shelter at Valley View Junior High School. Besides caring for the needs of the evacuees, the members fielded telephone calls from worried friends and relatives.

After working all night, the eight were relieved by five other REACTers while five more stood by in case they were needed.

(These members, together with the original eight, make up a special arm of the REACT team known as the Simi Valley Disaster Team. All disaster team members are certified by the Red Cross.)

The REACTers' work did not end there. Later the next day word came in that 20 residents of the

Trade Winds Mobile Home Park had to be evacuated when a nearby flood control channel overflowed. The REACTers picked up the residents, many of whom were senior citizens, and brought them to a second disaster shelter which the team had set up at Simi Valley High School. Later, when the flood danger had abated, the REACTers brought the residents back to their mobile homes. According to team member Lee Weeks, four residents enjoyed the disaster assistance so much that they did not want to return to their homes.

Later the team provided food for 35 public service employees at the school. The employees were carried in to fight the rising waters and clear the mud-choked streets.

The same day other members set up a third disaster shelter for stranded travelers at Ventura 25 miles away. Cots, provided by the Navy, were made available in the shelter for overnight stays.

Finally, as the flood danger subsided on Sunday, March 5, the REACTers were able to get some much-needed rest.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Chicago, Ill.
Permit No. 4736

Train Explosion

Continued from Page 1

shortcut as both were rushing to Waverly.

At about 3:15, while Hills and Sykes were en route to the scene, team president Art Collier was teaching a class at Camden Central High School when he noticed a number of emergency vehicles passing the school headed toward Waverly. "I thought that something must have been wrong when I saw all the emergency equipment headed in the same direction," Collier said later. "Perhaps it was a car wreck resulting in a fire. It was about the time that several plants over the Humphreys County change shifts. That meant a heavy flow to traffic between the two counties which could have caused a major wreck."

Medical People Called In

At 3:20, the local radio station, WRJB, made the first public announcement of the disaster. The station called on all doctors, nurses, and ambulance personnel to report for emergency duty. Hearing the announcement, Collier, who is also an emergency medical technician, called the Camden Police Department dispatcher to determine the extent of the emergency. The dispatcher told him that Nautilus Hospital in Waverly had just gone "Code Black" and all available help was needed.

Collier, who figured that Nautilus would need additional vehicles from other hospitals, picked up his wife Carolyn, the team's communications officer, and went to Benton County General Hospital in Camden. While Carolyn proceeded to New Johnsonville, about eight miles out of Camden on the road to Waverly and stood by for further instruction on Channel 9, her husband volunteered to help transport an ambulance and its team from Camden to Waverly.

Collier was attached to an ambulance team brought in from Weakley County 40 miles away. As the ambulance rushed to Waverly, Collier gave directions to the driver who was unfamiliar with local roads.

At about 4:00 p.m., Linda Stanley, a registered nurse and the team's board chairman, was 50 miles from Waverly in Paris, Tenn., helping to load a van with doctors, nurses, and medical supplies to be sent to Waverly.

Returning home, she switched on her CB to see if she could render further assistance. After handling several inquiries, she picked up a call for assistance. A station wagon carrying doctors, nurses, and medical supplies needed a police escort for the 50-mile trip from Paris to Waverly. Linda asked for a description of the vehicle, but she was only able to pick up part of it before the station wagon moved out of range. Fortunately, another REACTer, Lynn Braun, who was in her car at the time, picked up the rest of the description and relayed it to Linda.

Working with the Paris Police Department, Linda was able to obtain escorts for the station wagon from the six police jurisdictions through which the vehicle would pass on its trip to Waverly.

By 4:30 Army medivac helicopters were dropping off medical supplies and picking up the injured for treatment. At about this time REACTer Hills was approaching Camden and made contact with Camden police on Channel 9. "Through the help of the police we were able to get through all the intersections without a stop," Hills recalled. "The police were beginning to make relays on Channel 9 for additional help as well as status reports on the disaster situation."

Around 5:00 a new crisis arose. A second tank car, lying on its side next to the one that had exploded, had caught fire. A second explosion appeared imminent.

Officials decided that if the second tanker blew, a second rescue center would be needed on the opposite side of town. Half the medical equipment and personnel was moved to the National Guard armory so that potential victims of the second explosion could be better rescued and treated. Fortunately, the continued hosing down of the second tanker relieved pressure inside the container enough that a second blast was no longer expected. By 8:00 p.m., out-of-county personnel started to return home.

Still Another Crisis

Another danger erupted at 10:15 p.m. when a boxcar filled with rolls of newsprint caught fire. "The danger was not only the possibility of the second tanker igniting, but there was also another boxcar filled with fertilizer which, when properly set off, could be more devastating than both tankers combined," said Hills, who was a fireman at the scene.

The boxcar was eventually pulled farther down the track and safely extinguished, but only after Hills suffered smoke inhalation while fighting the blaze. He was treated at Nautilus Hospital and later released.

The unit to which Hills was attached returned home in the early morning hours of February 25. Throughout the night REACTers stayed on duty handling numerous calls from rescue squads, volunteer fire departments, and ambulance services.

Later in the day inquiries started to come in from relatives of Waverly residents. Skip levels were preventing direct CB communications into Waverly, so questions were relayed to a "ham" operator who was in contact with the emergency base at the armory.

Within a few days life began to normal in Waverly, although the scars will long remain. The people will long remember the devastation of the explosion, but they will also recall the help they received from others, including Tri-County REACT.



Berea, Ohio—Baldwin-Wallace College in suburban Cleveland is the site of REACT's Third International Leadership Conference to be held August 10-13. Shown here is Strosacker Hall, the college union building. (Photo credit: Hastings-Willinger & Associates)

"From My Experience . . ."

The following appeared in the Travis County REACT (Austin, Texas) "Team Log."

LIST OF VALID REASONS NOT TO MONITOR

When you call your Communications Officer to explain why you're not going to monitor, please refer to this handy check-list of common excuses. This will help save your energy and your C.O.'s time.

1. There's too much bleed-over from Channel 8 (or 10).
2. There haven't been any calls.
3. There's too much skip.
4. I don't think my radio is working right.
5. Somebody keeps D.C'ing me.
6. There's a good movie on TV.
7. I was up late yesterday and I'm tired.
8. A squirrel ate through my coax.
9. I'm conserving energy and I can't afford to run the radio.
10. My bowling team needs me.
11. I ran out of log forms.
12. I don't remember when I'm

supposed to monitor.

13. The police operator was rude to me.
14. REACT hasn't been in the newspaper for weeks, so I guess nobody cares.
15. People keep calling with dumb things like stalled cars instead of real emergencies.
16. It's not as much fun as it used to be.
17. I need to get caught up on my stamp collection.
18. The FCC doesn't enforce the rules.
19. Nobody ever told me it was going to be so much work.

To further promote efficiency, we tried to create a list of good reasons to monitor. Unfortunately, we've only been able to come up with one:

1. Somebody out there might be counting on me.

FCC answers FitzPatrick. In our November/December issue, we ran a column which has resulted in quite a bit of controversy. Dr. Alan FitzPatrick, President of the Texas State REACT Council gave his opinion as to how to save time in handling emergency communications. Among things he suggested, was the reduction of station identification. There was a lot of controversy about this. We did publish one response in the January/February issue. We are pleased to publish this response from Arlan K. VanDoorn, Deputy Chief, Safety and Special Services Bureau, FCC.

"In response to the question raised about the need to use call signs when communicating in an emergency situation the new plain English CB Rules which will become effective on 1 August are very clear. There are three rules which are waived for emergency communications: an operator does not have to comply with rules pertaining to authorized users, length of transmissions or communications with unlicensed stations. All other rules must be obeyed, including the requirement for station identification through the use of the FCC-assigned call sign."

HEADQUARTERS REPORT

Plans for REACT's Third International Leadership Conference are progressing rapidly. The registration forms are in mail to your Team Headquarters.

The emphasis this year is on Team Leadership Development. In addition to well-informed speakers representing significant agencies with which REACT cooperates, we will have a concentrated Team Leadership Workshop conducted by Dr. Hal Gulley, Chairman of the Department of Communications and Speech at Northern Illinois University.

Dr. Gulley has had extensive experience in working with volunteer leadership such as that found in REACT Teams. He will emphasize the use of group problem-solving, plus team and committee task-group meetings. Participants will actually meet in "Team" units to work on real team issues, assigning topics to "committees" and "task groups".

The idea is to learn more effective ways of solving problems, then putting them into practice on real team problems. This will give participants an opportunity to practice what they are learning while they exchange viewpoints with other REACT members from all over the U.S. and Canada.

It is hoped that representatives of all REACT Teams can join us at Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio (near Cleveland) on August 11-13, 1978. Please note that there will be a \$10.00 late penalty for registrations made after July 15.

Zip codes are required on REACT membership records if individual REACTer newspapers are to be received in the mail at your home address.

Our use of low cost bulk mailing rates in the U.S. requires that zip codes be on every address. (Canadian members should provide their postal codes for speed and ease of mailing, too!)

Have your team leader check the print-out for your Team roster to

make sure that everyone's zip code is listed. We can't mail a REACTer in the U.S. without it!

Hear REACT on CBS Radio! We have received confirmation that public service announcements featuring REACT will be aired on CBS Network Radio beginning May 21st.

Pat Buttram (known on CB as "The Sidekick" from his days with Gene Autry) tells of the public service benefits of CB radio and how to call REACT on channel 9.

Mr. Buttram donated his talents to this effort, and the CBS contribution of 7 to 10 announcements weekly for 13 weeks has an estimated minimum value of \$150,000. All REACT members should be very grateful for these valuable donations to the REACT program.

We will report on the number of inquiries generated by these announcements. The result should be more members for all Teams, and we are hoping for quite a few new REACT Teams as well.

While noting contributions to REACT, we should also thank General Motors Corporation for their continued generous support, as well as the American Trucking Associations' sponsorship of the Safety Break Program. And this year, for the first time, Electrolert, Inc., has provided a generous contribution to REACT. We think that all teams should be appreciative of this support.

Many REACT Teams have already taken advantage of two new fund-raising opportunities: the new FCC Plain English Rules and the new REACT Road Atlas, both available from the Official REACT Supply Company.

These items can provide extra income for your Team. If you'd like more information, see your Team leader (who has details) or contact REACT International.



AUGUSTA, Ga.—This spacious and modern headquarters building is the new home of Augusta REACT Team C-222. The building was constructed by volunteers using donations from CBers and non-CBers alike. A park to be open to the public is being built behind the structure. Augusta REACTers feel that their new headquarters and the park will be great assets to the community.

The REACTer is published at 111 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60601, by REACT International, Inc., an independent non-profit public service organization.

Copyright 1978

REACTers Set Up Ice Storm Shelter

LINCOLN, Ill.—Good Friday of 1978 will long be remembered by members of the Lincoln Railsplitter REACT Team C-733 for reasons other than religious, and the people of Lincoln will long remember the REACTers for what they did then.

On Friday morning, March 24, freezing rain started to fall on the city. As the day went on conditions grew worse. By 1 p.m. power was out in many areas and many roads had become impassable.

Around 5 p.m., the REACT team received a call from Bill Bradley, director of Civil Defense for Lincoln and Logan County, requesting the team's aid in setting up a shelter for stranded motorists and residents who were without power. By 7 p.m. the team had set up 200 cots and had a generator operating at Washington-Monroe School.

In the meantime all the team's base stations had lost power. Members had to switch over to 12-volt batteries to keep their CBs operating.

As people kept arriving at the shelter, more cots had to be set up. Many volunteers pitched in to help the REACTers. Gas stoves in the school were used to heat water for coffee and milk for babies' formulas. The Civil Defense supplied lunch meat, bread, and milk to feed some 250 stranded people.

That night the Lincoln City Police asked the REACTers to help patrol the town, which was in total darkness.

The next day the REACTers started traveling through rural

areas around Lincoln setting up generators to pump water for cattle and to power farm freezers and refrigerators. This work continued for the next six days.

"The cooperation between REACT, Civil Defense, and the Lincoln Police Department was perfect," said team captain Dale Melton. "This was the first major disaster our team has faced since our wives officially became REACT members. Without the women to take charge of the monitoring and to help at the shelter we could not have done the job that we did."



LINCOLN, Ill.—Abe's statue was not the only thing feeling the effects of the ice storm that struck central Illinois on March 24. When many residents were forced to flee their homes they were housed in a shelter set up in a local school by Lincoln Railsplitter REACT Team C-733. (Photo credit: The Lincoln Evening Courier.)

REACTers Help Woman Make Last Reunion

VISALIA, Calif.—Last December 6, Mrs. Betty Anderson of Fontana, Calif., received a phone call from her sister-in-law informing her that her brother was near death in a hospital in Visalia, more than 200 miles away. If she wanted to see him alive she would have to drive to Visalia that very night.

Taking her sister with her, Mrs. Anderson started driving north. By morning they were near Tulare, only a few miles from Visalia. Dense fog developed and the travelers became lost.

Fortunately, Mrs. Anderson had a CB radio in her car. Switching to Channel 9 she radioed for help. In a short time she received an answer from Kay Ivey of Visalia REACT Team #3071.

Mrs. Anderson didn't know what way she was traveling, although she did know the name of the road. Using landmarks as guides, Kay set her in the right direction. Soon another REACTer joined the conversation. He arranged to meet her and personally led her to the hospital in his car. Mrs. Anderson arrived a few moments before her brother died.

Although grieved at her brother's death, she was grateful for the assistance she had received from the Visalia REACTers. With the help

of local police she learned the team's mailing address and wrote a letter of thanks.

"God bless you for your outstanding job," she wrote. "You will never be forgotten by the Anderson family."

Team Uses Computerized Call Sequence Method

BALTIMORE, Md. — Randallstown, Md., REACT Team #3442 (also known as REAM, Inc.) unveiled a new standard operating procedure for field operations at its March meeting.

The procedure features a call sequence technique developed through the use of a computer. The purpose of the call sequence is to contact and assemble team members quickly when requested to assist local authorities.

The team holds its meetings in the local fire hall. In order to show its appreciation of the Liberty Road Volunteer Fire Department in providing use of the facilities, the team recently presented the fire fighters with a check to purchase four new sets of double bunk beds to replace the delapidated ones the firemen had been using.

CPR-Trained REACTers Patrol County

When a serious traffic accident occurs in Leon County, Fla., members of Florida Capital REACT Team #2792 are often the first on the scene.

That is because the team continuously monitors emergency Channel 9. But more importantly, the team members know what to do when they get there. They are trained to secure the accident scene until police arrive. A number of the REACTers are also "rangers" trained in advanced first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). These members patrol in vehicles equipped with large first aid kits, tow chains, fire extinguishers, and other emergency equipment. Other members with less sophisticated equipment also patrol a required six hours a week. Usually they give more time. "Week-ends, this town is covered like a glove," said Larry Todd, team president.

The remaining members man base stations, which usually can pick up more signals that the CB radios in cars. Todd called the base station monitors the "backbone" of the team's operation.

Todd dismissed the notion that the REACTers are trying to pretend they are policemen. "The minute a police officer or emergency medical technician shows up, we offer assistance, or, if we're not

needed, we leave," he said.

Police at Florida State University in Tallahassee were so impressed with the REACTers' work that they recently invited them to attend a special training program in CPR, first aid, and traffic control so that the members can help beef up the campus patrol and aid in crowd control during sporting events. In return, the team donated a base station to the campus police.



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Lt. Gordon Lamaster (left), training coordinator for the Florida State University Department of Public Safety, gives some pointers on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to Lyn Smith, ranger commander of Unit 55 of Florida Capital REACT Team #2792. (Photo credit: Dan Stainer)



GETTYSBURG, PA.—Some of the REACT representation at PURAC (Personal Users Radio Advisory Committee to the FCC). Shown left to right: John Johnston, Chairman PURAC, Chief Personal Radio Division FCC; Nat Maryn, Task Coordinator Public Safety Uses CB Radio, National Capital REACT; Sam Willner, MEP REACT, Detroit; Tom Bowling, National Capital REACT; Richard Everett Deputy Chief Personal Radio Division FCC; Gerald Reese, Task Coordinator Dissemination of Information, Managing Director, REACT International, Inc.; Corwin Moore, Task Coordinator GQRS, Ann Harbor REACT; Sharon Svoboda, Dallas County REACT; Randy Knowles, Task Coordinator Rule Readability, North Shore Emergency Association REACT, Skokie, IL; and Jim Southworth, President National Capital REACT, Washington, D.C. The photo was taken by Jeff Rahrig of North Central REACT Monitors #2413, Columbia Station, Ohio. Thanks, Jeff, for the photo and attending the PURAC meetings.

Team Reminds Drivers to Slow Down Near Schools

LAKE BUTLER, Fla.—During the past two school years, Union County REACT Team #318 has conducted a project to keep motorists aware of school children who may be on the street before and after classes.

Every five minutes during the hours when school zone restrictions are in effect, team monitors broadcast warnings on Channel 19 to motorists to slow down in and around school zones and when driving close to a school bus. The monitors remind drivers in Union County, a primarily agricultural region, that "our children are our

most precious crop."

The Union County REACTers have been commended for their efforts by both County School Superintendent Bill McGill and Sheriff John Whitehead.

"The REACT broadcast, in my opinion, has been very helpful in promoting traffic safety in the area," said Sheriff Whitehead. "Many motorists advised me of hearing the broadcasts and commented that their immediate reaction was to slow down and look for school buses and small children. Just the reminder caused them to drive more safely."



CLARKSVILLE, Md.—Capt. Jack Burke, deputy chief of the Howard County Police, recently presented certificates of appreciation to 21 members of Howard County REACT Team #3316 for monitoring a base station at police department headquarters. Alda Hammond of Elicott City, Md., is shown receiving her award. (Photo credit: Robert C. Amann)

Team Finds Kidney Patient

RADFORD, Va.—Last January members of the New River Valley Va., REACT Team #2336 in Pulaski, picked up an unusual call on Channel 9. "Have the Kidney Man contact the VA Hospital in Salem," the caller said. "They have located a kidney for the transplant."

The Pulaski members passed on the information to team headquarters in Radford. It was learned that the "Kidney Man" was a Radford resident who badly needed a kidney transplant and was awaiting a donor.

The Radford REACTers tried phoning his home, but there was no answer. Radford police were told of the message and tried without success to find the man. Inquiries revealed that the man held a job in Pulaski, so REACTers there tried his work address but he was not there.

Finally, the REACTers learned that the Kidney Man was an avid CBER. The Radford members started broadcasting a call to the

man over Channels 11 and 19. Success! The man picked up the call and responded. The REACTer at the other end told him to switch to Channel 9 on which he gave him the emergency message.

Following the directions, the man called the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salem where he learned that a kidney had been brought in from Newport News and was waiting for him at a hospital in Charlottesville. This presented a new problem. Charlottesville was more than 100 miles from Radford and roads were becoming impassable with snow. Fortunately, one of the REACTers had a four-wheel-drive vehicle. He offered to drive the man to Charlottesville.

At last report, the man was recovering well. His sentiments toward the New River Valley REACTers may well be summed up in his closing remarks over Channel 9 the night that he learned that the kidney was available: "God bless you all!"

Blind REACTer Is Valued Team Member

LAKE OSWEGO, Ore. — Carol Waymire's voice has become a familiar one to motorists in distress in the Greater Portland area. As one of the newest members of Northwest REACT Team #2867, she has shown above average enthusiasm in monitoring Channel 9. But when Carol goes out herself she always brings her friend Gretchen with her. Gretchen is her seeing-eye dog; Carol is functionally blind.

Carol has been an avid CBER for eight years. She joined Beaverton Community Radio Watch in 1972, but she says she has always been interested in REACT. Last December Carol was doing her seasonal task of making bows of ribbon which other blind people use in making Christmas wreaths. Two of her customers, a blind couple, stopped by her home to pick up the bows accompanied by their nephew, John Hodgdon, a member of Northwest REACT. Carol, who has partial vision in one eye, got close enough to John to make out his brightly colored jacket. She asked him about it and he told her

it was his REACT jacket. Learning this, she immediately wanted to know more about REACT and how to go about joining the Northwest team.

John helped her through the formalities of joining. She took the team's regular training course with the help of Video-Vision, a machine which transfers printed material onto a television screen magnified so Carol was able to read it.

Carol's first big REACT mission came on March 15 when a call came in on Channel 9 at 1:45 a.m. reporting a fire in an apartment house. Carol made the first call to the fire department and then stayed on the air until 4:30 a.m. calling a minister, the Red Cross, and the city transit company to get a bus out to help evacuate the residents.

"Carol is to be commended for her dedication to helping others," said team president Ray Herrington, "particularly considering that many in her situation would be asking for help, rather than offering it."