



SCHOOL LESSON PLAN: Planning for a Tornado Emergency

Materials Needed: Planning for Emergencies: Three Steps to be Prepared—A Family Safety Guide from Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, computer with Internet access

Subject Area: Behavioral Science

Grade Level: Various

ISTE Standards: Science in Personal and Social Perspectives F1, F3, F4

Resources:

American Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org>

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services <http://health.mo.gov>

Missouri Homeland Security <http://dps.mo.gov/dir/programs/ohs>

National Guard Magazine <http://www.ngaus.org/index.asp?bid=181>

Time Allowance: 15 minutes

Description: This lesson helps students prepare an emergency plan in response to a tornado warning.

Objective: The student will synthesize information about preparation for an emergency from Planning for Emergencies: Three Steps to be Prepared—A Family Safety Guide.

- Read the attached article “Storm Troops” to the class.
- Introduce Planning for Emergencies: Three Steps to be Prepared—A Family Safety Guide
- Using Planning for Emergencies, students will brainstorm ideas for tornado preparation
- Compile the results on the board under the headings
 - a. Create a plan
 - b. Prepare a kit
 - c. Listen for information

STATE ROUNDUP

June 2003

National Guard magazine

Storm Troops

Guardsmen called after record series of tornadoes rip nation's mid-section

Hundreds of Guardsmen were called to help pick up the pieces after nearly 400 tornadoes swept through the nation's mid-section the first 10 days of last month.

The twisters caused more than \$2.2 billion damage in 18 states and claimed at least 48 lives.

Among the areas hardest hit was Pierce City in southwest Missouri. A man seeking shelter at the National Guard Armory there was killed when a tornado crumbled the old structure's stone walls.

The May 4 Pierce City tornado "went from the Kansas City area and kept going straight down the state," said Missouri National Guard 2nd Lt. Jamie Melchert. "It looked like it skipped over some of the outlying homes and planted itself in the downtown area and just leveled [it]."

Melchert said the Pierce City armory, built in 1941, was thought of as one of the strongest buildings in town, but little was left.

It was home to Detachment I, C Company, 203rd Engineer Battalion, which was awaiting deployment orders to Iraq at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., when the twister hit the armory.

About 125 soldiers from the battalion were allowed to come home on leave for a few days to help their families and communities recover.

While several 203rd members had seen nature's wrath while serving in Honduras in 1999 after Hurricane Mitch, few were prepared for the destruction they found.

"That [Honduras] was a cakewalk compared to what happened here," said Staff Sgt. Ed Hatfield. "This is unbelievable. "

"Our equipment is on a boat [going overseas] right now, so we're using our hands," C Company 1st Sgt. Randy Mackey. "But we'll get it done."

The Pierce City tornado was especially devastating for one member unit C Company member: Spc. William Handley. His wife, Wanda Sue Handley, was killed when the twister struck her home in Monett, Mo., about five miles from Pierce City.

Handley was talking with his wife on his cellular phone when the tornado approached, Monett, according to published reports.

"She told him 'I see it,' and then the phone went dead," Mackey said.

The following day, Melchert accompanied Missouri Gov. Bob Holden and Brig. Gen. George D. Shull, the state's adjutant general, to survey the damage.

Holden called up about 170 Guardsmen May 5 to respond to tornadoes statewide.

Guardsmen from the 110th Engineer Battalion in Kansas City; A Company, 735th Main Support Battalion, in Nevada, Mo.; and C Company, 935th Division Aviation Support Battalion in Aurora and Springfield were sent to badly damaged areas.

Sgt. 1st Class Ron Holbrook, a Missouri Guard spokesman, reported that Guardsmen set up generators to provide power for water pumps and then helped police patrol the streets.

Guardsmen activated in Alabama, Kansas and Tennessee brought the total tornado response to more than 200 personnel by May 6, Guard officials said.

By Chris Prawdzik and Master Sgt. Bob Haskell