

# Defense Chief Will Tighten Up Local Emergency Programs

Rear Adm. James M. Irish, Regional Coordinator of Civil Defense, will attempt to put more life into the defense organizations of the Tri-Counties area, Region 7 of the State Civil Defense Council.

Upon his return from a conference of coordinators in Sacramento, the Admiral reported that Maj. Gen. W. M. Robertson, State Director of Civil Defense, complimented this region on the organizational work that has been accomplished but also voiced some strong criticism.

He quoted the director as saying that "looking back on the year very definite progress has been made but when the examination turns to the accomplishment of the 'missions' assigned to the individual cities and counties, the results are not encouraging and if an attack were to come in the near future there would be much uncertainty, confusion and delay."

To bring the regional defense force up to the required standards set by Gen. Robertson, Adm. Irish said it will be neces-

sary for the regional service chiefs and the local directors of civil defense to prepare a detailed plan applicable to their communities.

"At the present time not one city or county in the region has an adequate or complete plan," he said, "but as the basic plan for the region was not issued until October this is not surprising. Many communities have their plans in preparation."

He said all of the regional service chiefs have been appointed with the exception of utilities, supply and public information, and he is hopeful that experienced personnel can be found in the near future to fill these billets.

He reported that San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties have appointed operational area coordinators whose duties are to head up the organizations in those areas and to assist the local directors to solve these problems and to keep up the interest in civil defense.

The joint City and County Planning Board for Santa Barbara County has not yet appointed an area coordinator and in the opinion of Adm. Irish this is having a serious effect on the civil defense effort in this county.

Questioned about the apathy of the public, he said that it was a question of leadership. He said he had found where the responsible officials had a sincere interest in civil defense that the public responded willingly. He said it is not sufficient that the responsible body appointed an assistant civil defense director and assumed that he had developed an adequate organization.

Many of the services in Region 7 are in excellent shape, he said, and ready to function. He cited the medical and health service under Dr. R. F. Atsatt, law enforcement service under Sheriff John D. Ross, and the welfare and evacuation service under Welfare Director Charles R. Ingram.

He said his goal in 1952 will be to complete the organization of all units of the regional defense setup.

\$1.75 PER MONTH

## Civilian Defense City Could Bed 18,055 Injured In Emergency

Report on Facilities  
Available Here Sent  
State Headquarters

4/20/55  
Completing his survey of facilities which would be available within the city of Santa Barbara to care for refugees in the event of a disaster in Los Angeles, Col. Louis H. Bell, assistant civil defense director, has reported to the state that beds could be provided here for approximately 18,055 hospitalized persons.

This was the basis of a medical report compiled by Dr. Helen Hart, city health officer, to be a part of his full report to the state civil defense headquarters.

### Care for 215,000

Earlier Bell had reported this city could care for 215,000 refugees.

Dr. Hart said the three existing hospitals have a total bed capacity of 678, but could care for a total of 2,033 patients in an emergency. Beds could be provided in school buildings for 5,178 more, in motels and hotels for 9,774, and in miscellaneous buildings for 1,070.

Trained personnel available locally are: Medical doctors 164, osteopaths 5, dentists 53, veterinarians 7, optometrists 8, pharmacists 22, registered nurses 375, laboratory technicians 35, X-ray technicians 16, nurses aides 12, vocational nurses 25, and first-aiders 600. There also are available five public health doctors, four public health nurses, three sanitarians, and one laboratory technician.

### 200-Bed Hospital

Dr. Hart reported this area would be able to provide one 200-bed surgical hospital and two first-aid stations and would be able to supply 2,000 units of blood in the first 24 hours.

In another phase of the general report, James D. Jordano, food control officer for the City Civil Defense Corps, said the fresh-meat supply could last the present city population 30 days, fresh produce 15 days, dry groceries, including canned goods, 90 days, and frozen foods 45 days.