

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL
Quarter ending: September 30, 2005

ISSUE/description: 1. PUBLIC SAFETY. Informing the public about hurricanes, tornadoes, flood conditions, forest fires, or other life-threatening or property-threatening conditions.

How Issue was treated (Program, PSA, etc.):

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time/Duration</u>	<u>Program type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. In Focus	07/03/05	11:30AM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	*

* Since the two shark attacks on the Gulf Coast earlier this year, renowned shark expert Dr. Erich Ritter has been a frequent sight in both local and national media. He has spent his career studying shark behavior and shark bits. Today, he joined us for an in-depth conversation about the Gulf Coast attacks, his work in the field, and his own encounter with a bull shark that cost him some flesh.

2. 3 in the Morning (airs tape-delayed to 8AM on WFGX)	07/08/05	08:33AM/2 minutes	News	**
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** Traffic flow out of Northwest Florida is already getting congested as residents and visitors try to get out of the way of Hurricane Dennis. Officials at the Florida Highway Patrol say these people have the right idea...evacuate early. But FHP Captain David Karasek says leaving early is only half the battle. He says it's also important to make sure you have enough gas...so your car doesn't stall in traffic. No road figures to be more backed up than Interstate 10 going over Escambia Bay. The bridge has been under construction since Hurricane Ivan...and has just one lane for traffic heading eastbound. Tommie Speights/Florida DOT: "Should the flow of evacuation traffic be heavy, and we need another avenue or eastbound outlet, then we're looking at possibly letting the eastbound lane that we have now remain open and convert one of the westbound lanes to handle eastbound traffic...so you have two eastbound and one westbound." But Florida Department of Transportation officials still advise people to use alternate routes if possible, which in this case for eastbound traffic will be Davis highway over to 9 Mile Road, to Milton and then back to the interstate. The FDOT is also urging people who live in Southern Escambia and Santa Rosa counties to follow Highway 98 and use the Garcon Point bridge to go north to interstate 10. All tolls on the bridge have been temporarily suspended. And those routes will have to be utilized before Dennis makes landfall. If the winds reach a maximum sustained velocity of 45 miles per hour, then bridges will be closed. People evacuating northbound out of Escambia County should keep in mind that Highway 29 will not be converted to make traffic go north in both directions...but it will be on Alabama I-65 if congestion becomes severe.

3. Channel 3 News at 6PM (airs tape-delayed to 7PM on WFGX)	08/03/05	07:07PM/2 minutes	News	***
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*** It's a question many law enforcement agencies often need: Who should they contact "in case of an emergency?" Now, they suggest you store that information in your cell phone. Police are encouraging the public to include in their list of contacts the word "ICE," which stands for "In case of emergency..." Under that heading, simply list the number of a friend or relative officers should contact in an emergency. Pensacola police are already being told to look for the contact information when they arrive at a scene where someone is incapacitated. Assistant Chief Chip Simmons of the Pensacola Police Dept said: "We're encouraging citizens to put ICE #1, ICE #2, ICE#3. That will give us three opportunities to contact next of kin." The "ICE" campaign was started in May by a British paramedic.

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4. 3 in the Morning (airs tape-delayed to 8AM on WFGX)	08/09/05	09:06AM/2 minutes	News	****

**** Motorcycle accidents and deaths have increased dramatically since Florida dropped its mandatory helmet law. A new study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows fatal motorcycle accidents increased more than 81% since 2000. Governor Jeb Bush signed legislation repealing the mandatory helmet law in 2000, and critics predicted more fatalities. Lieutenant John Bagnardi of the Florida Highway Patrol isn't surprised to see the number of deaths increase, saying any time you add a safety measure it reduces the seriousness of the injury therefore reducing death. Lieutenant Bagnardi says he is very concerned about the increase in motorcycle deaths and that the Florida legislature needs to look at this study.

5. Channel 3 News at 6PM (airs tape-delayed to 7PM on WFGX)	09/20/05	07:01PM/2 minutes	News	*****
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***** Okaloosa County Officials want to partner with Okaloosa Walton College, to build a new state of the art emergency operations center on the Niceville Campus. Commissioners voted Tuesday to enter into a Joint Planning Agreement that would allow the county and OWC to add the new emergency command post to the college's planned Community Life, Safety and Military Science Facility - a facility that will already offer emergency management training. The center could also be home to a new 911 dispatch, evacuation shelter and EMS and Public Safety Offices. County Officials say the possibility of a new EOC is very exciting. The current EOC is located at the Courthouse Annex in Shalimar, where the operation has become too large in the out of date building. The need for a new EOC was really apparent during Hurricane Ivan, when workers were crammed one on top of the other - and had to sleep in hallways. The OWC Board of Trustees will vote on the issue Tuesday night at six-thirty.

6. Channel 3 News at 6PM (airs tape-delayed to 7PM on WFGX)	09/26/05	07:00PM/2 minutes	News	*****
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***** For the first time in more than years, a swimmer has died in the Gulf of Mexico off Pensacola beach. Two years ago, in response to a long string of drownings, the Santa Rosa Island Authority hired Public Safety Manager Bob West, beefed up their lifeguard staff and started roving patrols. The new system was thought to be a success...in fact the deaths stopped, until this weekend. A law professor at Tulane University in New Orleans, died after swimming in rough surf kicked up by Hurricane Rita. Two others were taken to the hospital and are believed to be in fair condition. Bob West says any deaths in the Gulf are preventable. He's reviewing Island Authority safety policy looking for a way to improve the system. That could include calling in help from other agencies or hiring even more lifeguards but probably won't include making it illegal to enter the water while a red flag is flying. During Sunday's rough surf only a red flag was flying, not a double red flag which would have meant the water was closed to the public. The reason why a double red flag wasn't flying was because the lifeguards don't have any legal authority to close the water to the public. The flag system is mandatory statewide but the laws regarding closing the water are left to the individual counties. County Commissioner Tom Banjanin says he won't support any ordinance making it illegal to swim in rough surf. He points to the 2 years Pensacola Beach went free of deaths.

