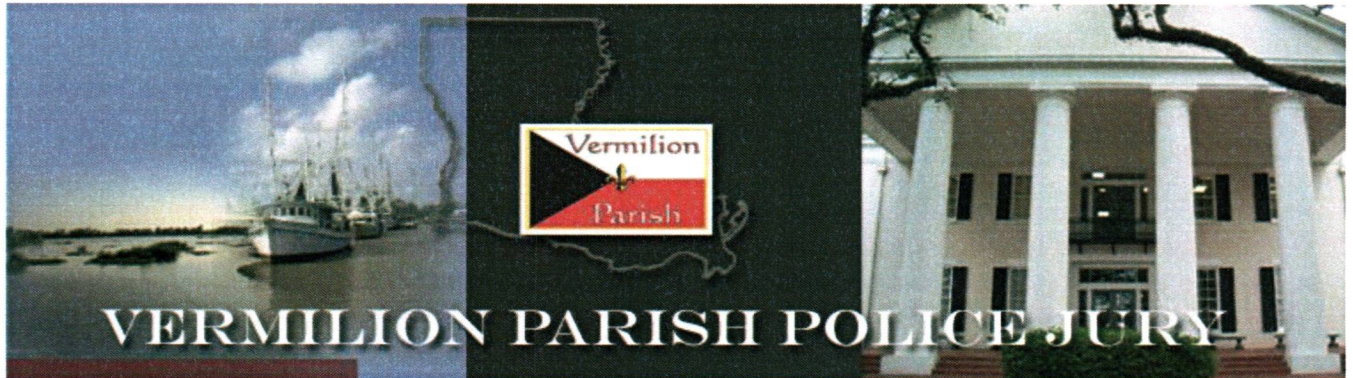


*Vermilion Parish  
Office of Homeland Security &  
Emergency Preparedness*



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MULTI-HAZARD  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

**ANNEX C**  
**WARNING**

June 2019

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# ANNEX C - WARNING

## I. PURPOSE

*This Annex focuses on warning guidelines that may be necessary during an incident and/or event, which may pose danger to Vermilion Parish and its constituents.*

It is the purpose of this annex to describe warning responsibilities, warning systems and procedures for alerting key officials and the general public of all hazards requiring emergency preparedness or response actions in Vermilion Parish.

## II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

### A. SITUATION

1. Vermilion Parish is susceptible to many incidents, both natural and technological, which may require activation of emergency warning systems.
2. Residents of Vermilion Parish are often subjected to severe weather conditions, such as flash flooding, heavy rainfall, tornadoes, and hurricanes requiring the dissemination of warnings.
3. Reverse 911 System (Emergency Communications Network (ECN) formerly FirstCall)
4. Emergency responders are contacted by the Emergency Operations Center / 911 Center, as directed by the Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director, when conditions warrant and/or are stipulated by standard operating procedures.
5. The use of broadcast media, both radio and television is considered a warning measure within this plan.

### B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Some people who are directly threatened by a hazard may ignore, not hear, or not understand warnings issued by the government.
2. Special needs groups such as hearing-impaired, sight-impaired, physically disabled, or institutionalized require special attention to ensure a workable warning system is established.
3. Emergency response organizations such as the fire department(s), municipal police department(s) and Sheriff's Office may be called upon to help warn the public, their ability to participate is assumed.
4. Radio and television stations will be willing to issue warning announcements.
5. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio stations will disseminate watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service; tone alert radios are automatically activated when such watches and warnings are issued.
6. All warning and alert systems will be intact and functional.
7. A warning period will be available for most emergency situations, although the amount of lead-time will vary from hazard to hazard. Proper use of this warning system would save lives, reduce injuries and protect property.

6. At different times of the year, non-English speaking transient employees may reside in Vermilion Parish. Notification will be made to the employer, the employer will warn these residents through interrupters. Media sources will also be used.

### III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

#### A. GENERAL

Vermilion Parish uses a multi-layer, overlapping system to advise persons living, working, or traveling within its boundaries of an emergency situation.

##### 1. Government Officials

Key government officials and emergency response organizations are notified by:

- a. Commercial telephones
- b. Pager
- c. 700 / 800 MHz Radios
- d. AM / FM Radios
- e. Cell phones.

##### 2. Public

The public is issued alerts and warnings with the use of:

- a. Reverse 911 System (ECN - formerly FirstCall) Alert teams, equipped with portable sirens and public addressing speakers.
- b. Media Outlets
- c. Special Locations

These include major industry, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, recreational facilities, institutions, and places of public assembly. Special locations are warned of an emergency with the use of:

- Reverse 911 System (FirstCall) Commercial telephone
- 700 / 800 MHz Radios
- AM / FM Radios
- Alert teams, equipped with portable sirens and public addressing speakers.

##### d. Hearing Impaired Individuals:

The TTY/TDD System may be used to warn these citizens.

##### e. Non-English speaking transient employees

Through their employer and media sources.

#### B. PHASES OF MANAGEMENT

##### 1. Mitigation

- a. A warning system (FirstCall) is presently in use and is maintained on a regular basis.

b. A public awareness program has been developed outlining the use of the warning system.

## 2. Preparedness

### Testing and Maintenance

- The TTY/TDD system is tested weekly.
- FirstCall is tested monthly.
- Telephones and radios that are used in the warning process are used day to day by Emergency Operations Center and 911 Center personnel, when equipment is not operational, it is addressed immediately.
- Vermilion Parish 911 Center personnel have been trained to activate all components of the warning system (ECN – formerly FirstCall).

## 3. Response

- The Emergency Operations Center / 911 Center is staffed 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The Communications Operator has the responsibility of notification of the Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Director and other staff members.
- Warning and status information may also be received from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness headquarters via telephone, facsimile or radio.
- National Weather Service via telephone, television, facsimile, or over NOAA Weather Radios
- From other emergency services, weather watchers, fire departments, radio stations Emergency Alert System, etc. via telephone, television, or radio.
- When an emergency warning is received, the OHSEP Director, with the help of his staff, will notify key emergency response officials. The director will activate the parish warning system as deemed appropriate.
- The Department of Homeland Security may issue terrorism warnings by contacting Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness or through general broadcast media. Through the FBI, the Sheriff and Municipal Police departments may be contacted.

## C. THREAT SPECIFIC

### 1. Natural Hazards

The most common warnings are those issued for severe weather. Local hazards that could necessitate warning alerts include flash flooding, tornadoes, and severe thunderstorms.

### 2. Technological Hazards

Warnings may be issued as a result of hazardous materials/industrial accidents or an emergency incident and/or event at a Nuclear Power facility.

### 3. War Related / Terrorism Hazards

A terrorism attack or attack by a foreign country is possible at any time and could take the form of a nuclear, biochemical, or conventional incident. It is likely an attack would be preceded by a period of international tension. This would provide adequate time to prepare the public.

However, it is possible that warning time may be as little as fifteen minutes. An accidental weapons launch is also a possibility. Warnings concerning terrorist activity could result from communications, with Federal, State and other Local agencies.

The Department of Homeland Security will issue warnings and an overall threat level for the country, region, state or local area. (See Terrorism Annex for More Details).

#### IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES:

##### A. ALL ORGANIZATIONS TASKED BY THE ALL HAZARDS PLAN

Upon receipt of a warning message or signal, initiate internal organization actions to:

1. Alert employees and volunteers assigned emergency response duties to the emergency situation.
2. As appropriate to the situation:
  - Suspend or curtail normal business activities.
  - Recall essential off duty employees.
  - Send non-essential employees home.
3. Evacuate the organization's facilities. If appropriate, augment the Emergency Operations Center's effort to warn the public through the use of vehicles equipped with public address systems, sirens, employees going door to door, etc.

##### B. POLICE JURY PRESIDENT

1. Specifies who has authority to order activation of warning systems.
2. Assigns a single organization the responsibility for activation of the various warning systems in the parish. The organization is presently the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness, which is housed in the Emergency Operations Center.

##### C. SHERIFF'S OFFICE/MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS

1. Provide additional siren equipped mobile units where necessary to supplement sound coverage.
2. Oversee maintenance and repair of all its siren units.
3. Provide mobile public address units if necessary.
4. Provide manpower for door-to-door warning if necessary.

D. FIRE DEPARTMENTS

1. Provide additional siren equipped mobile units where necessary to supplement sound coverage.
2. Oversee maintenance and repair of all its siren units.
3. Provide mobile public address units if necessary.
4. Provide manpower for door-to-door warning if necessary.

E. OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE

Assist with public warning of all segments of the population with special needs (i.e. non-institutionalized disabled, elderly, hearing impaired and non-English speaking) either by telephone or door-to-door.

F. COUNCIL ON AGING

Assist with public warning of the non-institutionalized disabled and elderly either by telephone or door-to-door.

G. SCHOOLS

The Superintendent of Schools will be notified of any warning and will, in turn, notify all other school officials and school locations.

H. MEDIA AND BROADCAST

1. Following notification by the Vermilion Parish OHSEP, the media is responsible for disseminating warning messages provided by authorized sources to the general public as rapidly as possible in the event of an impending or actual disaster.
2. Dissemination of information over the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) is the responsibility of the Broadcast Media.
3. The media will be requested to assist in an ongoing public awareness program of lifesaving measures to be taken concerning all catastrophic events.

I. DIRECTOR OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

1. Designates public service agencies, personnel, equipment, and facilities that can augment the parish's warning capabilities.
2. Implements call down rosters to alert emergency responders or provide situation updates.
3. Activates public warning systems.
4. Implements contingency plans to provide warning, if established warning system fails to work.

5. Coordinates warning frequencies and procedures with Emergency Operations Centers at higher levels of government and with adjacent communities.
6. Works with the Public Information Officer to ensure pertinent warning information is provided to the media for distribution to the public.

## V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

(See Basic Plan Section V and Direction and Control-Annex A)

## VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

(See Basic Plan Section VI.)

## VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

The Vermilion Parish Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Standard Operating Procedures contains several phone lists and radio frequencies of emergency personnel to be notified upon a Declaration of Emergency.

## VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE & EXECUTION

1. The OHSEP Director has the ultimate responsibility for coordinating revision of this annex, keeping attachments current.
2. The Vermilion Parish Standard Operating Procedures are maintained with the direction of the OHSEP Director.
3. Directors of supporting agencies bear the responsibility of maintaining internal plans, implementing procedures and resource data to ensure effective response to an emergency.
4. All other agencies given responsibility in this plan, in coordination with OHSEP are responsible for maintenance of their respective annexes or appendices.

## IX. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES:

### A. AUTHORITIES

(See Basic Plan, Section IX)

### B. REFERENCES

Guide for All Hazard Emergency Operations Planning, (CPG) 101 version 2.0, January 2011, Federal Emergency Management Agency

## X. APPENDICES TO ANNEX

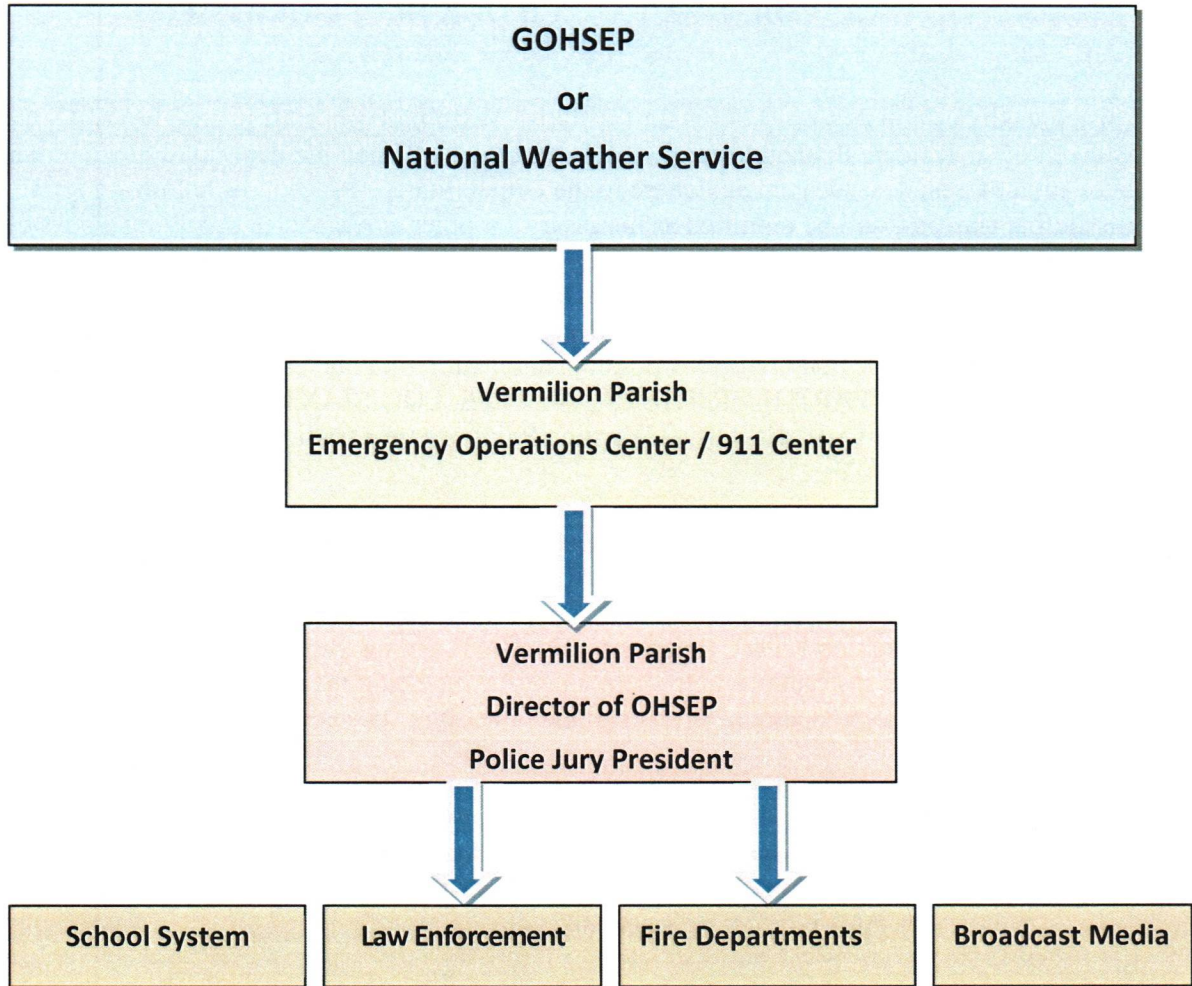
1. Warning Organizational Chart
2. Procedures for Nuclear Launch



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ANNEX C – APPENDIX 1

ORGANIZATIONAL & WARNING FLOW CHART



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## ANNEX C – APPENDIX 2

# PROCEDURES FOR NUCLEAR LAUNCH

### PROCEDURES UPON WARNING OR UNAUTHORIZED ACCIDENTAL LAUNCH OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON

This appendix establishes procedures for the Parish Warning Point staff in case NAWAS warning is received of an accidental, unauthorized, or any other unexplained incident involving a possible detonation of a nuclear weapon anywhere in the United States. Procedures below are for an accidental missile Launch, and will be modified as necessary for other emergencies involving a possible nuclear weapon detonation.

1. If NAWAS warning is received of an accidental missile launch (or any other unauthorized or unexplained incident involving possible detonation of a nuclear weapon) which **THREATENS VERMILION PARISH OR THE LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA METROPOLITAN AREA**, the Vermilion Parish Sheriff Office Warning Point operator (radio operated or watch officer) will **IMMEDIATELY**:
  - a. Sound the Attack Warning signal on all fixed sirens, and instruct police vehicles to augment fixed siren coverage.
  - b. Call station KTDY (telephone 233-6000) and instruct them to broadcast the emergency public instructions below immediately, repeating the message until instructed otherwise; also, keep open the telephone line to KTDY. The emergency public instructions are:

**WE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE NATIONAL WARNING CENTER THAT AN ACCIDENTAL MISSILE LAUNCH THREATENS THIS AREA AT (local time). A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION COULD OCCUR, TAKE COVER IMMEDIATELY - BY LYING DOWN IN A BASEMENT, OR IN THE CENTRAL PART OF A BUILDING, OUT OF LINE OF FLYING GLASS.**

(Note: The above emergency public instructions should also be prepositioned with broadcast station(s) serving the area, and should be kept at the local warning point.)

2. If NAWAS warning is received that an accidental missile launch or other incident threatens some part of the U. S. **NOT** the Vermilion area, immediately:
  - a. Call station KTDY (telephone 233-6000) and instruct them to broadcast the emergency public instructions below; also, keep open the telephone line to KTDY (233-6000):

**WE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE NATIONAL WARNING CENTER THAT VERMILION PARISH IS THREATENED BY AN ACCIDENTAL MISSILE LAUNCH. YOU NEED NOT TAKE COVER, OTHER PROTECTIVE**

INFORMATION AND ADVICE WILL BE REPORTED AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

(Note: The public instruction should be pre-positioned with broadcast station(s), also kept at the warning point.)

- b. Alert key officials as per l.c. above.
3. If NAWAS warning is received that a nuclear detonation has occurred, AND that fallout can be expected in the Vermilion Parish area "WITHIN ONE HOUR":
- a. Sound Attack Warning per item 1.a. above.
  - b. Instruct station KTDY (telephone 233-6000 - telephone should be open) to broadcast the emergency public instructions below immediately, repeating the message until instructed otherwise; also, keep open the telephone line to KTDY (233-6000):

WE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE NATIONAL WARNING CENTER THAT AN ACCIDENTALLY LAUNCHED NUCLEAR WEAPON EXPLODED IN (city, state) AT (local time). THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION MAY HAVE PRODUCED DANGEROUS RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT.

FALLOUT MAY ARRIVE HERE (local time). IF FALLOUT DOES ARRIVE, YOU WILL NEED PROTECTION TO AVOID DEATH OR SERIOUS RADIATION SICKNESS.

DO NOT USE THE TELEPHONE.

LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE LIFESAVING INSTRUCTIONS WE WILL NOW BROADCAST. WE' WILL KEEP REPEATING THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS IMMEDIATELY TO PROTECT YOURSELF IN CASE FALLOUT ARRIVES HERE:

- (1) LOCATE THE BEST FALLOUT PROTECTION AVAILABLE THAT YOU CAN REACH IN 20 TO 30 MINUTES OR LESS.
- (2) IF YOU ARE AT HOME, AND YOUR HOUSE HAS A BASEMENT, THE BASEMENT PROVIDES FAIR TO GOOD FALLOUT PROTECTION NOW. TAKE THESE ACTIONS TO MAKE THE PROTECTION BETTER: PUT A WORK BENCH OR LARGE STURDY TABLE IN THE CORNER OF THE BASEMENT THAT IS EARTHIEST BELOW GROUND (AND EARTHIEST FROM AN EXPOSED OUTSIDE WALL OF THE BASEMENT, IF THERE IS ONE.) THEN PUT BOXES OR DRESSER DRAWERS FILLED WITH EARTH ON TOP OF THE TABLE AND ON THE TWO EXPOSED SIDES. BRICKS OR OTHER HEAVY MATERIALS CAN ALSO BE USED. ON THE TABLE, PILE AS MUCH HEAVY MATERIAL AS IT WILL HOLD WITHOUT COLLAPSING. AROUND THE TABLE, PLACE AS MUCH SHIELDING MATERIAL AS POSSIBLE.

- (3) IF YOU ARE AT HOME, AND YOUR HOUSE DOES NOT HAVE A BASEMENT, YOU HAVE THREE CHOICES:
  - (a) PREPARE TO GO TO A NEARBY LARGE BUILDING THAT HAS A BASEMENT [PREFERABLY ONE MARKED WITH THE YELLOW-AND- BLACK "FALLOUT SHELTER" SIGN;
  - (b) SEE IF YOU HAVE A NEIGHBOR WHOSE HOUSE HAS A BASEMENT WHO IS WILLING TO SHARE HIS BASEMENT WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FOR ONE OR TWO WEEKS;
  - (c) PREPARE A FALLOUT SHELTER IN YOUR HOME.
- (4) IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A BASEMENT, AND YOU DECIDE TO STAY HOME, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PREPARE A FALLOUT SHELTER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HOUSE. DO THIS BY SELECTING A PLACE IN THE CENTER OF THE HOUSE AND PUTTING A LARGE STURDY TABLE THERE. THEN PUT BOXES OR DRESSER DRAWERS FILLED WITH EARTH (OR OTHER HEAVY MATERIALS) ON TOP OF THE TABLE -AND ON FOUR SIDES AROUND IT. ON THE TABLE, PILE AS MUCH HEAVY MATERIAL AS IT WILL HOLD WITHOUT COLLAPSING AROUND THE TABLE, PLACE AS MUCH SHIELDING MATERIAL AS POSSIBLE.
- (5) RAPIDLY GATHER SUPPLIES YOU WILL NEED TO STAY SHELTERED FOR ONE TO TWO WEEKS. SUPPLIES SHOULD INCLUDE:
  - (a) AS MUCH DRINKABLE JUICES (WATER, FRUIT OR VEGETABLE JUICES) AND READY-TO- EAT FOOD AS YOU CAN CARRY TO THE SHELTER AREA (AT HOME OR ELSEWHERE). WATER IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FOOD.
  - (b) A BATTERY-POWERED RADIO, FLASHLIGHT, EXTRA BATTERIES FOR EACH, PAPER AND PENCIL FOR TAKING NOTES ON INFORMATION GIVEN OVER THE RADIO.
  - (c) SPECIAL MEDICINES OR FOOD REQUIRED BY MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY - SUCH AS INSULIN, HEART TABLETS, DIETETIC FOOD, OR BABY FOOD.
  - (d) A BLANKET FOR EACH FAMILY MEMBER.
  - (e) A METAL CONTAINER WITH A TIGHT FITTING LID TO USE AS AN EMERGENCY TOILET, PLASTIC BAGS TO LINE THE TOILET CONTAINER, TOILET PAPER, SOAP, WASH CLOTHES AND TOWEL, A PAIL OR BASIN AND SANITARY NAPKINS.

- (6) REMEMBER THAT FALLOUT MAY ARRIVE HERE BY (local time). KEEP LISTENING TO THIS STATION FOR INFORMATION ON WEATHER FALLOUT HAS STARTED TO ARRIVE. TAKE ACTIONS FOR FALLOUT PROTECTION WITHOUT DELAY.
- (7) IF FALLOUT DOES ARRIVE HERE, YOU MAY NEED TO STAY IN SHELTER FOR ONE TO TWO WEEKS. LISTEN TO THIS STATION FOR OHSEP INSTRUCTIONS ON WHEN YOU CAN LEAVE THE SHELTER.

(NOTE: The public instructions should be pre-positioned with broadcast station(s), also kept at the warning point.)

- c. Continue alerting key officials (not already reached) per item l.c. above.
4. If NAWAS warning is received that a nuclear detonation has occurred, but fallout is NOT expected in the Vermilion Parish Area "within one hour":
- a. Continue alerting key officials (not already reached) per item l.c. above.
  - b. Instruct station KTDY (telephone 233-6000 - telephone line should still be open) that they are to continue broadcasting the public instructions in item 2.a. above; also, keep open the telephone line to KTDY (telephone 233-6000).

(Note: Depending on local circumstances - such as how much time is estimated to be needed to contact the Chief Executive, Emergency Preparedness Director, or Radiological Defense Officer - it MAY be considered desirable to assign additional SOP-type duties to the local warning point operators. If so, the following is suggested as a point of departure for local warning point instructions.)

- c. If the NAWAS warning places the nuclear detonation within 500 miles of Abbeville AND IF the President of the Vermilion Parish Police Jury, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director, or Radiological Defense Officer do NOT instruct otherwise within 30 minutes of the time of the nuclear detonation - instruct station KTDY (telephone line should still be open) to broadcast emergency public instructions in item 3.b. above.

(Note that the following instruction for the warning point operator provides a "fail-safe" approach. If the operator is not instructed otherwise within half an hour of the time of the NUDET, instructions will be broadcast to the public to start preparing for fallout protection. Obviously, this will alarm the public, and protection could be unnecessary in an area not threatened by fallout - or in all areas if the NUDET were later determined to be an air burst, with no fallout produced. Against this must be weighed the undesirability of not having instructed the public to start preparing for fallout protection, within half an hour of the burst, if the community did suffer fallout. It should be remembered that in the highly unlikely event that an accidental launch - with a nuclear detonation - ever occurred, it would undoubtedly occur with no warning, and the Chief Executive, Emergency Preparedness Director, or Radiological Defense Officer might be difficult to locate.)

5. If a NAWAS message is received that the accidentally-launched weapon has impacted WITHOUT causing a nuclear detonation:

- a. Instruct station KTDY (telephone 233-6000 - telephone line should still be open) to broadcast the following immediately. If the impact was in the Vermilion Parish Area:

THE ACCIDENTALLY-LAUNCHED MISSILE HAS IMPACTED IN THE AREA. A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION DID NOT - REPEAT - DID NOT OCCUR. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME DANGER MAY EXIST FROM MATERIALS INCLUDED IN A NUCLEAR WEAPON. THEREFORE YOU MUST REMAIN UNDER COVER UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THIS MAY BE FOR A NUMBER OF HOURS. KEEP LISTENING TO THIS STATION FOR FURTHER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS.

- b. Instruct station KTDY (telephone 233-6000) to broadcast the following immediately, if the impact was NOT in the Vermilion Parish area:

WE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE NATIONAL WARNING CENTER THAT THE ACCIDENTALLY-LAUNCHED MISSILE IMPACTED IN (city, state) AT (local time). A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION DID NOT - REPEAT - DID NOT OCCUR. YOU NEED NOT TAKE COVER OR TAKE OTHER PROTECTIVE ACTION. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED ON REGULAR NEWS BROADCASTS.

(Note that the foregoing example of warning point procedures for an accidental launch does not include follow-on operational actions that could be required - such as mobilizing the local RADEF system, or preparing to provide operational support for the impact area. Such actions would be appropriate for key local officials to take, as the EOC was activated -not the warning point staff. Accordingly, they should be covered elsewhere in the local plan, as in one of the "Parts" following the Basic Plan. An action checklist should be developed, based on CPG 1-6, "Disaster Operations" Handbook.)