

## **Nuclear Attack**

Campuses should be prepared to meet the emergency, know what action to take, and act immediately.

The shelter program is complemented by the existing warning and communications network. The National Warning System (NAWAS) is a nationwide network of warning stations which can immediately alert the nation to nuclear threat. At Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, there is a warning station on top of the Student Center. In peacetime, the network is used to pass local emergency information and severe weather information by the National Weather Service. In addition, the warning system includes a network of civil defense sirens located throughout Tift County. These sirens, when sounded in a wavering pattern for three to five minutes, indicate that nuclear attack is imminent and immediate shelter should be sought.

From a nuclear detonation, the greatest threat by far is the effects of nuclear radiation. This radiation is most hazardous during the first 24 hours and fallout shelter protection for up to two weeks is absolutely necessary for survival. Three elements will affect the amount of radiation received at each campus.

- The distance from the burst
- The length of time elapsed since the burst occurred
- The thickness/mass of materials between you and the radiation hazard

Not only should the College staff be prepared to manage the students, but the likelihood of neighborhood survivors seeking shelter at the campus is a distinct possibility. The best shelter is to be found below ground in those areas offering the least exposure to outdoors. In addition, interior hallways and rooms, preferably without windows, will offer a degree of protection from the radiation hazard. Radioactive materials will fall to earth and come to rest on the building roof and the ground surrounding the building.

The thickness and density of the materials between those persons being sheltered and the outside radioactive hazard will have a distinct effect upon reducing the level of exposure. Emergency information on radioactive hazards and survivor actions will be broadcast over radio/television. The conditions will evolve at each campus and should be reported on a recurring basis to the headquarters of the Civil Defense Communications Section for subsequent appropriate action.