Extensive Damage Surveyed

By STEVE CRICK

Robert L. McFerren and J. Roland Sarabia, two field representatives from the South Carolina Civil Defense Agency, met with officials of Sumter and Clarendon counties yesterday and took a survey of both counties to determine if the counties can be declared national disaster areas.

Their visit was requested by the state's governor, John C. West, who wired President Nixon asking him for emergency aid, according to Warner Brookh, executive director of the division of local governments in Columbia.

"They left Wednesday night for Atlanta to meet W. C. McMullen, regional director of the OEP in Atlanta, and now we must wait until this survey team evaluates the damages and then it is

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Survey Team Looks At Damage

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forms the state as to its decision," Brooks said. State Sen. T. O. Beven, D-Sumter, said, "I introduced a resolution in the State Senate yesterday asking President Nixon to declare South Carolina a national disaster area. This included, of course, Sumter and Clarendon counties, and it was unanimously approved by the Senate." The photographs that were taken on the helicopter survey trip Tuesday were presented to the state senators and gave a bit of an armagnac was expressed by many senators throughout our state," he said. "We believe this is a national disaster area in the strictest sense of the word."

Sen. Beven said that he would be pleased with all state senators to contact their respective state senators in Congress and senators in Washington to assist the state government in establishing this area as a disaster area.

Sen. Beven noted that if a disaster declaration was declared by the President, then, "This would give federal aid to all areas in need of assistance. We are not looking for a handout but for a hand up. We need to be self-sufficient and capable of helping ourselves."

Austin Floyd, project engineer for Southern Contingencies and Chemical Co. Inc. on Fulken Street, reported that a 30,000 square foot finished goods warehouse collapsed.

Floyd said, "Our officials estimate that the damage will be approximately $50,000. The only other damage we have had was the collapse of a building under construction which collapsed during the heavy snows last week.

Cover Manufacturing Co. at 29 Progress Road, also reported minor damage. According to general manager Jay E. Honeycutt, the workers were not harmed and there have been no estimates on repairs as yet.

Hugh Humphreys Jr., plant engineer for Georgia-Pacific Corp. on Fulken Street, reported that "our total property damages for all plants is estimated at $5,000. He added that, "It is not a big deal. We can handle it ourselves."