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Atom Bomb Warning Reiterated

If a 20-megaton nuclear bomb landed at Ajo Way and Swan Rd. most Tucsonians in a radius of 8 miles would die, Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist at the University of Arizona Institute of Atmospheric Physics, said yesterday.

McDonald, speaking to the Young Democrats Club, centered his talk on a theme he has expressed before: that ICBM missile bases should not be located near populous areas, especially upwind from them.

The true effects of a nuclear bomb have not been told the people, McDonald said. He spent last summer reading of these effects and an Arizona scientific publication has published his findings, he said.

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Donald said, and as frightening as the story is, "it is even more frightening that the newspapers have not published it."

"When an H-Bomb goes off, there is a fascinating phenomenon," McDonald said. Here is what he said would happen to Tucson:

If a 20-megaton bomb were detonated at ground level at Ajo Way and Swan Rd., a crater 3,000 feet in radius and more than 250 feet in depth would be created.

Blast pressure would level all houses in an 8-mile radius of the crater.

Of the inhabitants in the area, 90 per cent would be homeless in 30 seconds and "most would be dead."

Large buildings in a 5-mile area would be down.

All cars would be rolled and damaged until there would be no prospect for evacuation of survivors by auto within a radius of 8 to 10 miles.

Winds would disperse fallout to other areas.