

In support of lines 11 and 12 in Senate Joint Memorial 5

Whereas nuclear weapons pose a threat simply by existing, due to the possibility of accidents and miscalculations, many of which have been documented in the past;



Displayed in Eugene at a community conversation entitled **Know Nukes** sponsored by Community Alliance of Lane County, Beyond War and Oregon Women's Action for New Directions

This timeline represents documented military-based nuclear accidents and close calls. Since 1939 there have been at least 185 serious events or mistakes involving military nuclear materials or weapons systems. This sampling includes primarily U.S. and Soviet/ Russia events. Each slip of white paper describes a separate incident. During the decade of the Cuban Missile Crisis there were so many incidents that a drop-down extension had to be added (seen here just left of center).

Among the incidents listed:

- 4 involved lost contact or lost/mislaid weapons
- 3 involved nuclear missiles on planes or in a silo
- 4 involved a nuclear response to a perceived state that nuclear war existed or the deadline for response was just minutes away or the order to fire was given. In 2 of the instances the frontline person disobeyed orders or military protocol and did not launch a response
- 7 involved reactors, nuclear-powered rocket engines; near or partial meltdown and loss of control
- 18 involved human radiation experiments or deliberate releases of radioactive materials into populated areas

Nuclear weapons don't have to be used to be dangerous. As stated in the Memorial, they *pose a threat simply by existing*. Support the Senate Joint Memorial 5

Respectfully submitted by Susan Cundiff, Chair, Oregon WAND, 1515 Sylvan St., Eugene, OR 97403