

SECTION SEVENTEEN

ACTIONS TO INCREASE EMERGENCY WELFARE READINESS

This section outlines crisis actions which may be taken by local government departments of public welfare to increase readiness to deal with the emergency welfare problems which could be created by a nuclear attack upon this country.

This section is not intended as a detailed guide for welfare readiness actions to meet a possible nuclear attack. These must be defined by the application of the professional knowledge and skills of senior public welfare officials of local governments—with assistance from key officials of private or voluntary welfare organizations.

The actions suggested in this section are aimed at increasing readiness progressively from a review of emergency welfare plans to full readiness to carry out the local actions planned.

The Increased Readiness actions described in this section would be the responsibility of the director of the local Department of Public Welfare with support, in many cases, from the heads of local private or voluntary welfare organizations. He would act under directions from the head of local government and would coordinate as necessary with other department heads and the civil defense director.

Actions to Increase Emergency Welfare Readiness

1. Review and Update Emergency Welfare Plans

Local Director of Public Welfare and heads of private welfare agencies review and update as necessary emergency welfare plans, including basic operations plan (including establishment of Welfare Centers); mobilization plan; emergency lodging, feeding, clothing, registration and inquiry, and social service plans; accelerated training plan; and interagency and interjurisdictional mutual-aid plans.

Check plans with chief executive(s), civil defense director(s), and other department heads to ensure all plans are compatible, including any coordination needed between counties and municipalities.

Ensure that all public and private welfare institutions have up-to-date emergency plans to provide fallout protection and supportive care for their populations, as well as potential evacuees from risk areas should spontaneous (or directed) evacuation occur. (See Section Five.)

2. Review Personnel Assignments

Review emergency assignments of all welfare personnel, both lay and professional, paid and volunteer, and public and private. In addition to appropriate assignments to the staffs of public fallout shelters and other facilities, include emergency welfare advisors/representatives for Primary EOC, support EOC's, Shelter Complex Headquarters, and host area Reception and Care centers, as appropriate.

Make certain that current telephone numbers are available if alerting and mobilization is by chain calling.

Determine requirements for any additional volunteer emergency welfare workers and include these in accelerated training plans. (See Section Four, on accelerated training.)

3. Check Readiness of Emergency Welfare Facilities and Equipment

Check readiness of public and private welfare institutions to provide fallout protection and supportive care for their population; e.g., availability of fallout protection, food and water for 14 days, radiological monitoring instruments, etc.

Check availability and condition of other emergency welfare equipment and supplies required to carry out approved emergency welfare plans.

Determine additional equipment and supplies needed, if any.

4. Correct Deficiencies in Facility and Equipment Readiness

Accelerate maintenance of all types of equipment needed for emergency operations of welfare institutions, to ensure maximum availability.

Commence procurement of any equipment or supplies for which shortages were identified in step 3 above.

5. Alert Emergency Welfare Personnel

Alert all emergency welfare personnel. Brief them on their emergency assignments, emergency welfare plans, and special instructions as applicable. Also brief personnel as necessary on weapons effects and hazards, shelter, etc.

Request employers to cancel vacations of paid

welfare personnel and ask voluntary emergency welfare workers to stand by for call to duty.

Advise all personnel to review shelter and survival plans for their families.

6. Commence Accelerated Training, as Necessary

Conduct conferences for social workers and other professional staff, stressing those aspects of emergency welfare services which differ from normal welfare practices, such as mass care instead of individual case work and psychological first aid for disaster victims.

Commence accelerated training of additional volunteer emergency welfare workers, if any, determined to be required in step 2 above.

7. Mobilize Emergency Welfare Personnel

Call all full-time, volunteer, and other emergency welfare personnel to duty and deploy them to their initial nuclear attack assignments.

Move all institutionalized personnel to fallout protected areas of the institution, releasing as appropriate any who could be better cared for in public fallout shelters.