

SECTION TWO

INCREASED READINESS ACTIONS FOR EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION

This section outlines actions which local governments can take during crisis periods to inform the public on civil defense. This may include information on steps which Federal, State, and local governments are taking to increase civil defense readiness; and actions individuals and families can take to improve their chances for survival, including where to go and what to do in case of attack.

Civil defense emergency public information actions during a period of crisis would probably take place under the following conditions:

1. News facilities would be operating.
2. The public would be generally aware of the developing situation, but knowledge of specific details would depend on public statements by government officials.
3. Public opinion would be influenced by the general news and by official statements. As the crisis intensified, public interest in civil defense information in general, and specifically on personal protective measures, would rise. With increasing frequency, State and local governments, as well as news media, would be asked questions about what was being done to deal with the situation, and what individuals should do. The questions would have to be answered as fully and quickly as possible through news media, by direct answer to telephone calls, and through distribution of personal protection publications.

The IR actions described in this section would ordinarily be the responsibility of the local Emergency Public Information Officer, acting under directions from the head of government and working closely with the civil defense director.

Where crisis relocation plans have been developed, the plans will be **ACTIVATED ONLY UPON NOTIFICATION BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES.**

Increased Readiness Actions For Emergency Public Information

1. *Review and Update Plans, and Check Availability of EPI Materials*

Review procedures by which decisions and guidance can be obtained quickly from the

head of government on public information matters.

Review Emergency Public Information (EPI) plans and staff assignments.

Determine availability of EPI materials (H-14, "In Time of Emergency" booklet, related film and other materials); reorder if necessary; and review plans for distribution in public places (post offices, banks, fire stations, etc.) or by organizations (industries, etc.)

Determine availability of EPI materials based on in-place protection planning ("where to go and what to do" maps and instructions from community shelter planning). If an in-place protection plan (CSP) has been completed, review plans and materials for redisseminating CSP information to the public in a crisis period. If a CSP has *not* been completed, begin preparation of approximate information on "where to go/what to do" in case of nuclear attack. (For example, list of public shelters available and general areas served by them; advice for persons in areas not served by public shelter on best-available shelter such as home basements *and on how to improvise additional fallout protection in homes with or without basements*; advice on supplies to take to public or home shelter areas; etc. Designs for expedient shelters are provided at the end of Section Five of this guide. Field tests show that average American families can construct such expedient shelters during the daylight hours of a single day.

Review and update as necessary EBS program materials prepared in advance for emergency broadcast use.

2. *Prepare for Increased CD Public Information Activity (Brief Key Personnel, etc.)*

Should the situation warrant, brief head of government on actions proposed to increase public information activity, and secure approval of proposed actions.

Designate local government person(s) as source for news releases and media inquiries. Responsibility to speak for local government on CD matters should be limited. In most cases, it should be assigned only to the Mayor or City Manager, the CD director or deputy, and the CD Emergency Public Information Officer. The

designated person must be aware of all actions planned by local government or underway, and should therefore attend or be represented at all meetings where emergency matters are discussed.

Brief CD and other government department personnel on procedures for answering inquiries or issuing public statements and news releases.

If necessary, arrange for additional staff to answer public inquiries. (If the crisis deepens, a point may be reached at which no further attempt should be made to answer telephone calls from the public. At that time, *all* emergency information should be disseminated through local newspapers and television stations. Until the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) has been activated, every local radio station should be asked to broadcast emergency information to the public. A useful format could be for a CD representative to answer public inquiries in call-in programs on radio or TV.)

If necessary, secure services of qualified Fallout Shelter Analyst (i.e., an architect or engineer trained in FEMA-sponsored courses) to provide technical advice and guidance through local news media and otherwise to the public on means of improvising fallout protection at home.

3. Meet With Management and Staff of Local News Media To Review EPI Plans and Procedures

Identify for news media official local government spokesperson on CD matters.

Request assistance and cooperation in preparing and releasing selected CD information materials, should the need to do so arise, including plans for increased allocation of time and space for CD materials.

Review and update radio program materials prepared in advance for emergency broadcast. (These also could be used by local EBS stations after activation of the system.) Also update TV and newspaper materials that apply specifically to the locality.

These media materials should stress the points outlined below. Not all of these points are stressed in past or current EPI or shelter management materials (they will be added to future updates of such materials), but the actions outlined have potential to save *many millions of lives*, if taken in communities throughout the country:

a. *Home Shelter*—People who plan to seek protection in their own homes should

take the following actions which, should the crisis intensify, would substantially increase their chances for survival:

- *Improve fallout protection* of the home, if it has a basement. If there is no basement, consider construction of an *expedient shelter*. (Actions to improve fallout protection of homes both with and without basements are illustrated at the end of Section Five of this guide. Note that an expedient shelter can provide good *blast* as well as fallout protection, permitting survival within two miles or less from a nuclear burst.)
- Gather *supplies* that would be needed for up to two weeks' survival if sheltered in the home (food, water, medicines, bedding, clothes, sanitation container, battery-powered radio, etc.)
- If in or near a city of about 50,000 or greater population, or if near an important military base (*that is, if in a possible "risk area"*), take additional actions to *prevent fires* caused by nuclear weapon explosions:
 - Cover windows with aluminum foil, whitewash, or some other opaque substance (if available) and close window blinds, drapes, or shades. This will help to prevent ignition of interior furnishings by the heat flash of the weapon.
 - Fill tubs or other containers with water, for use as auxiliary water supply and self-help firefighting.
- If Attack Warning is received, people in *risk areas* who take shelter in their homes:
 - Take shelter sitting or lying down in the *CORNER of the basement that is farthest belowground*. This provides the best *fallout* protection, and also the best protection against *blast*. (Do *not* stay in the middle of the basement.)
 - If there is no basement, take shelter lying down in the *middle of the house*, surrounded on all sides and overhead by furniture (and boxes or dresser drawers filled with earth), to provide some protection against low-level blast and fallout radiation. Line the protected area with mat-

tresses and blankets.

- If a nuclear weapon explodes and affects the house:

—*Immediately* go through the house and check for small fires (or ignitions) caused by the explosion (burning drapes, smouldering upholstery, etc.) Stamp out burning drapes, throw smouldering furniture out the windows, etc. People would have 10 or 20 minutes in which to *extinguish ignitions*—before these could grow into a fire that might destroy the house. Fallout (from the weapon that caused the ignitions) would not arrive until about 15-30 minutes after the explosion.

—After checking for ignitions and extinguishing any found, *return to the best fallout-protected part of the house*. Listen for information on the radio concerning the degree of fallout hazard in the area. If the fallout level is high, people may have to stay in sheltered areas for one or up to two weeks. Also, instructions may be given over the radio on where to go after leaving shelter. In areas that received heavy fallout, it may be necessary for people to move 20 to 40 miles away, *after* leaving shelter, to an area that had much less fallout.

—If the house received severe damage, it may have been partly collapsed into the middle of the basement, or even blown away—yet most people in basements might have survived. Survivors in basements would need to *improve fallout protection*—by adding as much overhead protection as possible, in the corner of the basement, using planks, bricks, and other material from the partly-destroyed house.

- If Attack Warning is received, people in *low-risk areas* who take shelter in *their homes* should take the same precautions against fallout as risk-area people. That is:

—They should take shelter in the *corner of the basement farthest belowground*; or if there is no basement, they should develop a shelter area in the middle of the

house.

—They should *stay in the protected part of the house* until advised by radio that they can leave shelter. (In some areas of heavy fallout, people would have to move elsewhere after leaving shelter.)

—They would not have to extinguish ignitions or fires, or take other actions that would be needed in blast-damage areas.

- b. *Public Shelter*—People who plan to seek protection in *larger buildings (that is, in public shelters)* should take the following actions which, if the crisis intensifies, would substantially increase their chances for survival:

- Gather *supplies* that would be needed for up to two weeks' survival in the public shelter (food, water, medicines, bedding, clothes, battery-powered radio, etc.)

- Recognize that while some public shelters would have a Shelter Manager present, others would not. If there is no Shelter Manager, survival of people in the shelter could depend on someone *taking charge and acting as Shelter Manager*—including taking the immediate actions outlined below.

- In *risk areas*, it would be critically important for acting Shelter Managers to take the following actions as soon as possible after Attack Warning and arrival of people in the shelter:

—For *fire prevention*, people should be sent *immediately* to each floor of the building to *close ALL window blinds or curtains*.

—Put all shelter occupants in the best *blast protection* posture immediately: Sitting back-to-back about two feet from outer walls of basement, or near columns—*not* beneath unsupported parts of basement ceilings. Where it is necessary to occupy upper floors, shelterees should lie down in the central part of the building, out of line of flying glass and debris, and hold onto each other.

—If the building is affected by a nuclear explosion, *immediately* send people to each floor of the building to *check for ignitions* caused by the

explosion (burning drapes, smouldering upholstery, etc.) Stamp out burning drapes, throw smouldering furniture out the window, etc. People would have 10 to 20 minutes in which to *extinguish ignitions*—before these could grow into a fire that might destroy the building. Fallout (from the weapon that caused the ignitions) would not arrive until about 15-30 minutes after the explosion.

—After checking for ignitions and extinguishing any found, *return to the best fallout-protected part of the building.*

- In *both high-risk and low-risk areas*, it would be urgent for acting Shelter Managers to take the following actions, which have great potential for lifesaving and for reducing shelterees' total exposure to radiation:

—Place shelter occupants in *maximum fallout-protection posture* promptly upon arrival: In high-risk areas, this will result to a large degree from placing shelterees in the blast-protection posture outlined above. In low-risk areas, acting Shelter Managers should place as many people as possible in basements; where it is necessary to occupy upper floors, shelterees should be placed in central parts of buildings, avoiding areas with windows.

—Should an attack occur and fallout be deposited in the locality, acting Shelter Managers should take action to *identify locations within shelters providing the best fallout protection, by use of available radiological monitoring instruments.* The acting Shelter Manager should look for a set of civil defense radiological monitoring instruments. If a set is located, it should include instructions (printed on a yellow plastic sheet, "How to Use Your Radiological Instruments to Find the Best Shelter and to Minimize Your Exposure to Radiation").

—Acting Shelter Managers should assure maximum use of best-protected space. This may involve *crowding shelterees in best-protected areas.*

Depending upon the weather, this may result in high heat and humidity developing, which can in turn result in dangerous heat exhaustion. If heat and humidity problems develop, acting Shelter Managers must move some shelterees to less well protected parts of the shelter, if possible rotating shelter occupants to and from such areas.

The acting Shelter Manager should assure that some of the shelter occupants listen for information on the radio concerning the fallout hazard in the area. If the fallout level is high, people may have to stay in shelter for one or up to two weeks. Also, instructions may be given over the radio on where to go after leaving shelter—possibly to an area 20 to 40 miles away, that received less fallout. The acting Shelter Manager should organize this movement.

Prepare or update tapes of local warning messages, including instructions on movement to shelter.

If necessary, request that news media provide professional information support by assigning personnel (e.g., newspaper editorial staff, radio or TV news editors, etc.) to assist in EPI operations.

4. *Commence Moderate Step-up in Local CD Public Information Activities*

Commence activities representing a moderate step-up in local CD public information efforts; for example, increase distribution of CD literature, by placing it in public places and through local organizations; make low-keyed news release on partial activation of local EOC (see example at the end of this section); make speakers available to local organizations to explain local shelter-use and other emergency plans and to recruit persons for accelerated CD training. (See suggested news release on accelerated training at the end of Section Four of this guide.)

5. *Commence Dissemination of CSP-Type Information to the Public*

If a plan for in-place protection (CSP) has been completed, start distributing EPI material to the public on "where to go/what to do." Distribution may be by newspaper, by door-to

door delivery, or other means.

If a CSP has *not* been completed, commence public distribution of best-available information on "where to go/what to do" prepared under 1 above (lists of public shelters, advice on improvising additional protection in the home, etc.).

This CSP-type information would ordinarily be published only at a relatively advanced state of readiness.

6. *Local Authorities Urge the Public to Make Final Crisis Preparedness Short of Taking Shelter*

Local authorities urge citizens to make without delay, the final preparations outlined in step 3 above. Such advice would ordinarily be given *only* at an extremely advanced state of readiness.

(EXAMPLE NEWS RELEASE)

**PRELIMINARY STEPS TAKEN TO INCREASE
CD READINESS**

MAYOR _____ OF _____ ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT SOME ROUTINE STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO INCREASE THE CIVIL DEFENSE READINESS OF THE CITY. THESE INCLUDE TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF A SMALL CREW AT _____
(Emergency Operating
Center) TO INSPECT AND TEST COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND TO PREPARE FOR ACTIVATION OF THE CENTER IF IT SHOULD BECOME NECESSARY.

THE MAYOR EMPHASIZED THAT THESE AND OTHER MEASURES BEING TAKEN ARE PRECAUTIONARY.

HE SAID THAT "WE ARE PUTTING THEM INTO EFFECT AS A MATTER OF COMMON SENSE. WE BELIEVE IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO BE PREPARED. WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED."

INFORMATION ON THE THINGS INDIVIDUALS CAN DO TO PROTECT THEMSELVES IN EMERGENCY IS AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL CIVIL DEFENSE OFFICE AT _____, AND AT _____
(address)
(other locations)

(Supplement with other pertinent information available locally.)