

CIVIL DEFENCE

WHAT IS CIVIL DEFENCE ?



Department of
National Health and Welfare
Ottawa



CIVIL DEFENCE is a COMMONSENSE WAY OF DEALING WITH ANY COMMUNITY DISASTER THAT MIGHT ENDANGER LIFE OR PROPERTY.

WHAT DISASTERS MUST WE GUARD AGAINST?

FIRE, FLOOD, EARTHQUAKE, TORNADO, EXPLOSION — such a disaster can strike a family or community anytime, anywhere.

In the event of **WAR** a civil population must be prepared to ward off or minimize the death and destruction caused by **ATOMIC, BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL** and other forms of attack.

In **PEACE** as in **WAR**, prepared to deal with disaster, the civil defence services can save lives and reduce property damage.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF CIVIL DEFENCE?

- (a) *Self-help* — doing what you can for yourself.
- (b) *Mutual help*—readiness to help others.
- (c) *Co-ordinated help* — willingness to work together as a team.
- (d) *Organized help*—acceptance of local government planning and coordination of effort.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVIL DEFENCE?

- (a) *Each and every citizen* — for self-help and mutual help.
- (b) *Local governments* — for providing organization and direction for co-ordinated aid.
- (c) *Provincial governments* — for arranging mutual aid between municipalities.
- (d) *The Federal Government* — for the overall coordination and direction of civil defence.

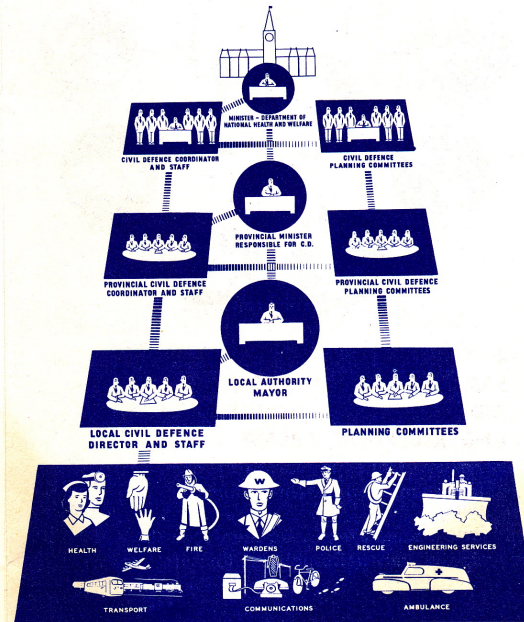
HOW IS CANADA ORGANIZED?

For civil defence purposes, Canada is divided into (a) Target Areas; (b) Mutual Aid Areas; and (c) Mobile Support and Reception Areas.

- (a) A *Target Area* is any municipality or group of municipalities which — because of high population density, great industrial potential, etc., — is considered liable to attack by an enemy.
- (b) A *Mutual Aid Area* is the region around a Target Area, whose communities are organized to provide help where it is needed when disaster strikes.
- (c) A *Mobile Support and Reception Area* is the territory outside the Mutual Aid Area that is organized to receive long-term evacuees, refugees and casualties, and to send help to a Target Area.

WHAT CONSTITUTE THE ORGANIZED CIVIL DEFENCE SERVICES?

- (a) *Police Service*, with volunteer auxiliaries — to maintain law and order.
- (b) *Fire Service*, with volunteer firemen to meet additional fire hazards.
- (c) *Warden Service*, to provide aid, information and leadership to the people.
- (d) *Health Services*, for the treatment of casualties and maintenance of community health.
- (e) *Ambulance Service*, for the rapid evacuation of casualties to points where they can receive treatment.
- (f) *Rescue Service*, for rescuing people who may be trapped in their homes or in buildings.
- (g) *Welfare Service*, to reduce such stress on the people as might be occasioned by a disaster.
- (h) *Engineering Service*, to aid in the restoration of public utilities to normal.



In order to achieve coordinated action from the above services it is essential to have an organized control system which would include communications, transportation, supply, training, intelligence and other essential services.



IS THE ABOVE ORGANIZATION THE SAME IN TARGET AREAS, MUTUAL AID AREAS, OR MOBILE SUPPORT AND RECEPTION AREAS?

Each of the services illustrated above is required in ALL communities organizing for civil defence but the emphasis will vary.

- (a) A Mutual Aid Area organization will stress those services that can bring aid to a stricken community.
- (b) A Mobile Support and Reception Area will be mainly concerned with the health and welfare of casualties and the homeless who will come from the scene of a disaster.

HAVE VOLUNTARY WELFARE AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL GROUPS ANY PART IN CIVIL DEFENCE?

Yes, most definitely! Civil defence is everyone's business. The special training of professional groups fits them for many vital civil defence tasks. There is a place in Civil Defence for every public-spirited citizen.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING CIVIL DEFENCE?

In a municipality, the local authorities, headed by the Mayor, usually delegate this responsibility to a Civil Defence Director and his committee. In a province, it is the responsibility of the provincial government which designates a Cabinet Minister to direct its program with the assistance of a Provincial Civil Defence Co-ordinator and his committee. On the federal level, the responsibility has been given by the government to the Department of National Health and Welfare. The Federal Civil Defence Co-ordinator and his staff in this department work closely with other federal departments and with a number of national advisory committees.

WHAT ARE THE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THESE GOVERNMENTS?

On matters of major policy, between the three levels of government. On other matters, between the federal and provincial minister concerned; and between the provincial minister and the mayor. On everyday administrative detail, between the federal and provincial civil defence coordinators, and between the provincial coordinator and local civil defence directors.

**WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN SELF PRESERVATION?**

- (a) Find out what civil defence can do for you — and then find out what you can do for civil defence.
- (b) Support the development of civil defence in your community.
- (c) Offer to serve in your local civil defence organizations.

**LEARN ALL YOU CAN
ABOUT CIVIL DEFENCE**



**ASK YOUR LOCAL OR PROVINCIAL
CIVIL DEFENCE CO-ORDINATOR
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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