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A GUEST EDITORIAL

Civil Defense Is Everybody's Job; What YOU Can Do NOW

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The Preparedness and Knowledge That Can Save Lives

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Civil Defense has been allowed to become a controversial issue with the resultant effect that the public is now at a complete loss to know who is correct—federal, state, or local authorities.

One fact remains clear. Civil Defense is primarily a local problem, and the residents of Monroe County are going to live or die on their own efforts.

Not a voice can be heard that will say Civil Defense is not a must; public officials, laborers, industrialists, businessmen, students, housewives, and newspaper editors all fully recognize that the enemy has the capability for waging a successful attack on this country.

No one doubts that the centers of population with their wealth of skilled labor are going to be the targets. These are the people who must be saved. We can rebuild our homes, our factories and our machines but we cannot replace our people.

The initiative for Civil Defense must start with the individual. He must recognize the threat against our very way of life and accept the challenge to do something about it. Every avenue must be explored now so that through preventive action we can save as many lives as possible.

Monroe County has a well trained, well organized Civil Defense organization. This organization is in a position to absorb and train additional volunteers.

The state and federal governments cannot save our lives if disaster strikes our area; both Washington and Albany are too far away to provide help immediately.

Your wife or daughter, your neighbor, a member of your patriotic, religious, labor, social, civic, political, industrial, or commercial organization may be the volunteer that will help save your life and property. Your own preparedness and personal knowledge may in turn save their lives.

Time may be short. Let's not wait for catastrophe to alert us to the need for getting our shoulders behind the wheel and building our own county program that will mean survival for the maximum number of people.

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HERE IS what an individual —YOU—can do NOW to help protect your community and your family.

1—If you have special skills or interests, register at once with your Monroe County office of Civil Defense at 34 State St., or enroll at any city fire house, town or village office, or call BAker 4730.

Training classes are being scheduled continuously and classes are now being conducted by the following Civil Defense services: Fire, police, rescue, warden, communications, medical, radiological and ground observer corps.

2—If you are unable actively to participate in the Civil Defense program, increase your chances of surviving an atomic or hydrogen attack by preparing your home and your family now.

A—Learn the official Civil Defense action signals and what to do when you hear them.

B—Prepare your home:

1—Assemble a Civil Defense disaster first aid kit.

2—Learn how to use it by taking a Red Cross first aid course.

3—Learn how to fight small fires.

4—Practice fire-safe housekeeping.

5—Maintain a 3-day emergency supply of food and water at all times.

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6—Equip the most protected place you can find in or near your home for an air raid shelter.

7—Know how to practice emergency sanitation measures.

8—Keep your auto gas tank at least half full.

C—Be prepared to move promptly and calmly from your home or place of business if local authorities instruct you to evacuate your city or home.

D—Memorize the Conelrad frequencies of 640 and 1240 on your standard AM radio. Mark your radio with these settings. That is where you will get official information and instructions in an emergency.

E—Should an emergency arise, consider the safety and well being of others: Act calmly, don't start rumors, obey instructions.

F—Give blood to the blood bank regularly. It may be needed in an emergency by you or a member of your family.

Knowing and doing these things will help save lives. Again, if you have a question about any of the foregoing, telephone Civil Defense headquarters, BAker 4730.

Disaster can strike any time.