



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

CIVIL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

Survival Plan Project Records

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

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|----------------------|---|
| Agency: | Minnesota. Department of Civil Defense. |
| Series Title: | Survival Plan Project records, |
| Dates: | 1955-1963. |
| Abstract: | Plans for the civil defense procedures for counties and municipal areas, Mobile Support Areas, UNICOM Divisions, Duluth, and the state of Minnesota in general. |
| Quantity: | 3 cu. ft. (3 boxes) |
| Location: | 105.H.19.3B – 105.H.19.5B |

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE SURVIVAL PLAN PROJECT

The United States Federal Civil Defense Administration (FCDA) established Survival Plan Regulations; a Survival Plan Manual; and Survival Plan Contracts in order to direct and fund individual states' efforts in developing a plan for civil defense and protection. Minnesota's Civil Defense Department, created pursuant to the Civil Defense Act of 1951 (Laws 1951 c694), functioned in a non-military capacity to prepare and protect the state and its population in the event of a disaster resulting from enemy attack. The purpose of the planning effort was to "study and develop civil defense measures designed to afford adequate protection of life and property, including but not limited to research, study and planning as to the best methods of treating the effects of attacks, developing equipment and facilities, and effecting standardizations thereof to meet civil defense requirements . . ."

The federal regulation required a study for the whole state of Minnesota. For the purpose of the study the state was divided into seven subordinate units. The study encompassing the entire state, under FCDA contract CD-SP-58-10, was titled the *Minnesota Survival Plan Project*. In addition, the FCDA designated the Twin Cities metropolitan area and western Wisconsin as a critical target area of such importance as to warrant a Survival Project Plan for that area alone. This instigated a second contract with the FCDA, number CD-S-56-16. The plan that grew out of this second contract is titled the *Minnesota-Wisconsin-Minneapolis-St. Paul Survival Plan Project*.

The Governor of Minnesota appointed a department director, H. A. Schon, to carry out civil defense planning and programs, and to oversee such activities throughout the state. L. R. Bearnese was the project coordinator. The state plan was based on mobilization at the local level. Counties, municipalities, and other political subdivisions of the state were authorized to establish

local defense organizations, in accordance with the general state plan. Mobile Support Areas, consisting of blocks of counties, and UNICOM Divisions, including the Twin Cities area and surrounding counties, were organized to reinforce civil defense organizations in local areas. Ground Observer Corps were established throughout the state to aid the United States Air Force in the detection of enemy aircraft.

Information was taken from the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

Records relating to two state plans for civil defense developed under the supervision of the United States Federal Civil Defense Administration. One of the plans was developed in cooperation with the state of Wisconsin. The records include minutes and correspondence; project proposals, directives, evaluations, and the final plan; miscellaneous communications and fire plans; state contracts with Wisconsin and the federal government; and project history and maps. The bulk of the materials are the plans for counties and municipal areas. The plans specify the organizational control and hierarchy of authority; procedures relating to transportation, communications, evacuation, and relocation; function and responsibilities of key persons in each area; and requisite civil defense education and other services. Correspondents include project staff members, regional and federal civil defense officials, state and local officials, congressmen, and Wisconsin state officials.

Also found in the records are a "Map Book" that contains organizational charts and maps and a "Data Book" that contains information on available guides, reports, manuals and other publications that relate to civil defense services.

RELATED MATERIALS

An additional copy of the Minnesota Survival Plan; and the St. Paul Operational Survival Plan and the Capital Area Survival Plan are also each cataloged separately in the MHS book collection. Further State Archives records pertaining to the Civil Defense Department and the Capital Area Survival Plan are available in the Civil Defense Department Miscellaneous Records series; and the Minnesota Attorney General Subject Files (Series 1), each cataloged separately.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Civil defense—Bibliography.
Emergency communication systems—Minnesota.
Emergency transportation.
Evacuation of civilians—Minnesota.
Protecting

Places:

Minnesota—Civil defense.

Wisconsin—Civil defense.

People:

Bearnes, L. R.

Titles:

Minnesota Survival Plan Project.

Minnesota-Wisconsin-Minneapolis-St. Paul Survival Plan Project.

Form Genre:

Maps—Minnesota.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession Information:

Accession number(s): 77-93; 977-29; 979-89

PALS ID No.: 0800007332 RLIN ID No.: MNHV812A

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

*Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note the location numbers shown below.
Civil Defense Department. Survival Plan Project Records.*

Minnesota Survival Plan Project [FCDA contract CD-SP-58-10]:

| Location | Box | |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| 105.H.19.3B | 1 | Federal Civil Defense Administration (FCDA) contracts, 1956-1959. Preliminary Operations Survival Plan (POSP) P. W. V2, 1957. 2 folders. Civil Defense Forest Fire Control, Minnesota Department of Conservation, Division of Forestry, 1951. Data Book, July 1958. 2 folders. Map Book, July 1958. County Prototype, July 1958. 2 folders. Duluth Evacuation Area Preliminary Plan, July 1958. 2 folders. Municipal Prototype, July 1958. 2 folders. Mobile Support Area I, volume 1, July 1958. Mobile Support Area I, volume 2, July 1958. 2 folders. Mobile Support Area II, volume 1, July 1958. 2 folders. Mobile Support Area II, volume 2, July 1958. 2 folders. Mobile Support Area III, volume 1, July 1958. 2 folders. |
| Location | Box | |
| 105.H.19.4F | 2 | Mobile Support Area III, volume 2, July 1958. 2 folders. Mobile Support Area IV, volume 1, July 1958. 2 folders. Mobile Support Area IV, volume 2, July 1958. 2 folders. Mobile Support Area V, volume 1, July 1958. Mobile Support Area V, volume 2, July 1958. 2 folders. UNICOM Division I, July 1958. 3 folders. UNICOM Division I: Target Area County, July 1958. 3 folders. |

UNICOM Division I: Target Area Municipality, July 1958.
UNICOM Division II, July 1958. 2 folders.
UNICOM Division II: Target Area County, July 1958. 3 folders.
UNICOM Division II: Target Area Municipality, July 1958.

Minnesota-Wisconsin-Minneapolis-St. Paul Survival Plan Project [FCDA contract CD-S-56-16]:

| Location | Box | |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| 105.H.19.4F | 2 | History of the project, [1957?]. Correspondence, 1955. |
| 105.H.19.5B | 3 | Correspondence, 1956-1959. 7 folders. Communications and warning plans, 1956-1958. Includes example plans from other states. Operations Committee, 1955-1958. Advisory staff, 1956-1957. Facility rental, 1956-1959. Resource inventories [fire and rescue services], [1957?]. UNICOM Fire Departments: Equipment Sectors Division, [1957?]. Fire towns Wisconsin 13 counties, January 1957. Rural services, 1955-1957. Minnesota-Wisconsin conference, January 28-29, 1957. Planning Directive, February 1957. 2 folders. Phase II proposal, 1956-1957. Phase II proposal (revised), 1956-1957. Minnesota Survival Plan: A Plan of Action for the Public, Government, Civil Defense, May 1957. 3 folders. Evaluation of the Minnesota Survival Plan, May 1957. Survival Plan of the Minnesota Department of Defense, July 1958. 2 folders. This report incorporates plans written by both projects. |