



## **TO THE CITIZENS OF ELGIN, ILLINOIS:**

The attached HANDBOOK FOR EMERGENCIES is brought to you through the courtesy of the Fox River Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America from the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization. Your Elgin Civil Defense hopes you will read this little booklet and keep it handy.

Elgin Civil Defense, an arm of the City Government, is for the protection of lives and property on the home front in case of a disaster.

Whether the disaster is caused by an enemy bombing attack, a fire, an explosion, or one of nature's pranks such as a tornado, flood or extremely heavy snow, it is the function of Civil Defense to keep loss of lives and property at a minimum and to aid in the home front rehabilitation.

### **Enemy Attack**

In case of an enemy bombing attack, Elgin is not expected to be a target. The general plan recommended by the Federal and State Civil Defense agencies is for Elgin residents to remain here and for this community to serve as a reception center, providing shelter for people who would evacuate Chicago and environs.

## **Fallout**

One of the greatest dangers Elgin faces in case of an enemy attack is radioactive fallout. Even if only one bomb fell on Chicago or Rockford, fallout might present a serious situation.

Many Elgin residents have been trained recently in radiological detection and teams are organized to use Geiger counters, survey meters and dosimeters, which were acquired by Elgin Civil Defense. These teams would check various locations in Elgin and vicinity and ascertain the degree of safety from radioactive particles.

## **Warning Sirens**

Elgin has four Civil Defense sirens, located atop the City Hall, Garfield School, and the Dundee Avenue and DuBois Avenue Fire Stations.

The sound of a siren can be heard in every part of the city. The ALERT signal is a continuous blast of three minutes or longer and indicates danger is approaching but is not imminent. For example, if we had information that enemy planes were headed for the Chicago area but were an hour or more away, the three-minute continuous blast would be sounded.

The TAKE COVER signal is a wailing noise (alternate high and low pitch) and means danger is immediate, whether from an enemy bombing attack or from a tornado. When you hear the wailing sound you should quickly seek shelter.

## **Tornadoes**

Tornadoes seldom strike in Elgin, yet they have hit hard in this area. Elgin Civil Defense has a tornado warning system with tornado scouts located south, southwest and west of Elgin. If a tornado is sighted, headed for Elgin, these scouts will report it, and within seconds the wailing sound will come from the sirens, warning everyone of impending danger. The attached handbook, on page 7, tells you what to do if a tornado is approaching.

## **Emergency Hospitals**

Two 200-bed emergency hospital units, fully equipped with operating tables, surgical instruments, drugs, etc., have been supplied by the Federal Government and are stored at Elgin State Hospital. These have been staffed by volunteers through Elgin Civil Defense. All or part of these hospitals may be transported wherever needed in any disaster.

## **Radio**

The Elgin Civil Defense Office, located in the City Hall, has radio equipment that would enable it to reach other communities in case Elgin were isolated. It also has mobile radio equipment and two-way conversations may be carried on between the Civil Defense Office and these mobile units which could go to the scene of a disaster. The radio station, with call letters of W91KN, is operated by experienced and licensed operators under the direction of The Elgin Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

## **Water Rescue**

Through the cooperation of the Elgin Marine Club your Elgin Civil Defense has a water rescue arm. Available are the services of more than 70 men and their boats, boating equipment and facilities.

## **Mutual Aid**

Elgin Civil Defense is a party to a Mutual Aid Pact for this entire area. Under this pact, Elgin would offer all possible assistance to any other stricken community; and if we were in need of help we could expect aid from the surrounding communities. This is just good neighborliness.

Under the Federal Surplus Property Program, Elgin Civil Defense has acquired several trucks, bulldozers, and other pieces of equipment, as well as a quantity of blanket material, etc., for use in any emergency, whether in Elgin or in nearby communities.



We trust that our community never will suffer a disaster, but if it should your city government, your state and your nation, through Elgin Civil Defense, is prepared to do everything possible to alleviate suffering and to rehabilitate our city.

*Woodrow H. Boyer*

Director

ELGIN CIVIL DEFENSE