Expedient Shelters

Building home shelters is not possible for all people, especially for those living in apartments. It could also be the case that after building a home shelter, a nuclear event would occur when we are not at home.

There are many natural fallout and blast shelters in our neighborhoods. If we plan ahead, these shelters could be accessed quickly and easily.

A small survival kit (72 hour kit) should be placed in the trunk of every car. Supplies should also be stored at our workplaces. If early warning is taken from a loss of electrical power (see EMP in `Nuclear Defense Issues') we could have as much as 25 minutes warning of a possible event.

Radiation decays very quickly. Ninety percent of the gamma radiation is gone after the first 7 hours. Ninety percent of the remaining 10 percent is gone after two days. In most areas, after two days, we could leave our expedient shelter and go quickly to our homes. However, if possible, we should stay sheltered for two full weeks. After two weeks there is only one, one thousandth of the gamma radiation remaining.

A home basement is not adequate protection in itself, even in areas of light fallout. However, shelter could be taken in the basement under a strong table. Two feet of books or other heavy objects should be placed on and around the table. A hose could be brought in from the water heater for drinking water, and a 5 gallon bucket with plastic bags could be used for sanitation. These options, however, must be well thought out before hand.

Other suggestions follow:

Garages --(service pit area in quick change places)

Churches--(pipe chases from boiler rooms)

Banks--(basement vault or safety deposit areas)

Hospitals--(usually have massive basements and are well built)

Residential homes--(look for basements with maximum soil coverage)
Schools--(most schools have pipe chases and some have good basements)

Mines--(stay well back from entrance). Possible danger from gas, falling timber, rocks, or shafts

Caves--(stay well back from entrance)

Tunnels --For instance in the Salt Lake City area we found that the Hotel Utah, Relief Society building, S.L. Temple, Church office building, and VA Hospital all have underground tunnel access.

Culverts--look for long runs under highways
(Possible danger from rats or water runoff)

Boiler Rooms--In churches, schools, and other large buildings

Underpasses--There is good blast protection (10 psi) high up under over passes, however there is no radiation protection.

Community Swim pools--Equipment rooms (Clorine gas is stored in pressurized containers & could leak from blast damage)

Armories--(are usually well built)

Fire Departments

City and County Buildings--(The one in Salt Lake also has underground tunnels.)

Underground parking garages-- provide both blast & radiation protection.
(Danger that building may fall and trap you)

Boats--(Covered boats in a lake provide good radiation protection, but little blast protection)
(Must have capability to wash fallout from cover)

State or County E.O.Cs--(Usually well built and well stocked)

Root Cellars--(Offers better radiation protection than blast protection)
