

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

MILLS E. GODWIN, JR.  
GOVERNOR



ALFRED B. DENNISTON  
COORDINATOR

OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE  
P. O. BOX 9016  
RICHMOND 23225

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## THE VIRGINIA HOME FALLOUT PROTECTION SURVEY

### Public Shelters

For the last five years, the National Office of Civil Defense, the State of Virginia and local and county governments have been conducting the National Fallout Shelter Survey, utilizing the services of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. Large buildings were examined and evaluated for fallout protection. As of January 1, 1968 shelter spaces have been located in 4,444 structures. To supplement such supplies that may already exist in these buildings, a two-week supply of emergency shelter stocks consisting of food, water containers, sanitary and medical supplies, and radiation detection instruments for 813,000 people have been stored in 1,437 of these structures. A vigorous program of locating, marking, and stocking shelter structures is continuing throughout the State.

### Why Home Shelters are Important

The majority of public shelters in Virginia are located in commercial, industrial, school and other public buildings in the major cities, but these may not serve the needs of all city residents because of residential location, job location, or other factors. In rural or sparsely settled areas, families may find that the nearest public shelter is too far away. In city or country, home basement shelter areas are more immediately accessible to housewives during the daytime and to the entire family during the nighttime than public shelters.

### Who Will Be Included in the Home Fallout Protection Survey?

Every household in one, two, and three-family structures is being included in the survey.

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### How is the Survey Being Conducted?

The survey is being conducted by two methods: by mail and by personal interview. The mail method is being used in cities of 10,000 and above population, including the large city metropolitan areas. Residents in these localities are receiving questionnaires in the mail. These questionnaires ask a few simple questions about the type of house they live in and its construction features. Each family is to fill out the questionnaire promptly and mail it back to the Census Bureau.

In the remainder of the State, the questionnaires are being filled out by Census Bureau enumerators who are making personal visits to each household to obtain the necessary information.

### What Happens to the Questionnaire?

When the questionnaire is returned to the Census Bureau, the information is analyzed by electronic computer and the results sent to the householder.

Every family that lives in a house with a basement will be mailed a specially prepared Civil Defense booklet; a label on the cover will provide information concerning the fallout protection factor (amount of protection) offered in that particular basement. This information will be confidential to the householder and the Census Bureau.

A general information booklet on protective measures that can be taken by individuals and families will be sent to occupants of homes without basements.

### Results of the Survey

When the Virginia survey is completed and the findings analyzed, the Federal Government will furnish statistical area summaries of homes with fallout protection to the State and local governments. No information about individual houses will be revealed by the Census Bureau.

State and local government officials will learn from area summaries the total number of residents in each Virginia community that could be protected in basements of their own homes. The information received by local governments will aid them in planning to meet shelter shortages in their communities when people are at home and will assist in community planning to provide fallout protection for people at work and at school, for day and night population distribution.

### For Further Information

Your local city or county Civil Defense Director can provide information on the various Virginia Civil Defense programs.