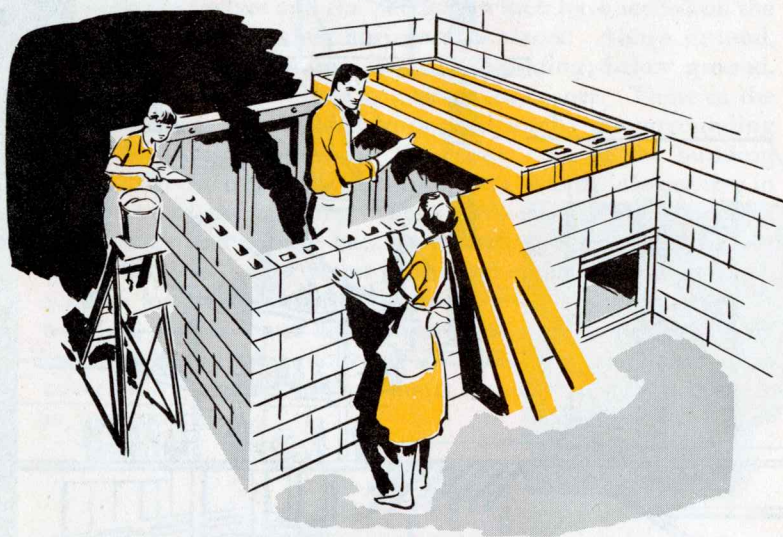


INDIVIDUAL ACTION: FAMILY SHELTERS

Families living in rural or sparsely settled areas may find that family shelters are the only feasible solution to their fallout shelter problem. Others may have personal preferences for family shelters.

There are a number of ways to construct home shelters. Several types are shown here. All of the shelters shown here can be built with about \$150 worth of materials or less. If materials, such as the lumber used in a basement lean-to shelter, are available at little or no cost, some persons could build these shelters for considerably less than \$150. In all of the shelters, the danger from fallout would be at least 100 times less than to unprotected persons.



This family is building a basement compact shelter of sand-filled concrete blocks. Solid concrete blocks are used for the roof shielding. This type of shelter also could be built of brick or structural tile.

Construction drawings on these and other family shelters can be obtained by following the instructions on the last page of this booklet.

In selecting shielding material for any shelter, sand or earth can be substituted for concrete or brick, but for each inch of solid masonry you need an inch and a half of sand or earth. Adding shielding material to a shelter will improve the protection offered by the shelter, but it also may increase the cost of the shelter.



This sand-filled lean-to basement shelter will accommodate three persons. The house itself gives partial shielding. Sandbags are used to block the end of the shelter.



This backyard plywood shelter can be built partially above ground and mounded over with earth, or be built totally below ground level. A gravel drain under the shelter and a ditch outside help keep it dry. The family blocks the entrance with sandbags after entering the shelter.

hauled away. The dumping area might be a gully, refuse area, or even a vacant lot roped off at a safe distance.

Since the most effective and rapid methods of decontamination would involve the use of crews and equipment working in large areas, the best places to start the decontamination are likely to be at schools, shopping centers and downtown areas, and at parks and open fields where large equipment can operate.

It is vital that communities set aside in advance many rallying points where people can meet to start work after an attack. If you are in a home shelter and have a ratemeter, you should wait until the radiation level has fallen to a point where you can go out for about an hour without receiving more than a few roentgens. You could use this time to go to your local school, shopping area or other designated gathering place and join with your neighbors in community decontamination efforts.

If you do not have a radiation instrument, stay in shelter until you are assured, by radio, by contact from local authorities, or by other means, that clean areas are established near you and that it is safe to proceed there.

In areas of heavy fallout where the first decontamination actions can be started, if well organized, within the second week after attack, there is relatively little danger from fallout particles getting on people doing cleanup work—especially if normal habits of personal cleanliness are maintained. The most likely articles of clothing to pick up fallout particles are shoes, so keep them brushed clean.

On a farm

If you live on a farm, your pre-fallout preparations will have a lot to do with your cleaning up afterward.

You should place as much of your livestock and produce in barns as you can. A normally filled hayloft affords some shielding from fallout radiation for animals below. Farm machinery, troughs, wells, and any produce you cannot get into barns should be covered with tarpaulins. You should store as much water in covered containers as you can, taking the precautions already outlined.

Afterward, any livestock exposed to fallout could be washed or brushed to remove fallout particles. Water from wells and

streams would be safe for animal use. Even water standing in a pond could be use since fallout particles would settle to the bottom. Pond water could be made even safer by stirring up a clay bottom and then letting it settle out. Feed and fodder stored under cover should be used first. If no other feed is available, animals could be turned out to pasture after a few days when the radioactivity has decreased.

Farm animals and poultry would be an important source of human food and they should not be allowed to sicken and die from thirst and starvation. Animals which have been exposed to early fallout or which have fed on contaminated pastures could be slaughtered and the muscle meat would be fit for human consumption. Internal organs, however, such as the liver and spleen, should not be eaten unless no other food is available. It would be easier to preserve meat on the hoof than on the hook. Hogs and steers could be kept alive even with water and feed containing early fallout particles.

Animals, like humans, can have radiation sickness. If the radiation level in your area indicates that animal sickness may be widespread, you probably will be told and given instructions on slaughtering. Care must be taken in slaughtering to prevent contamination of the carcasses by fallout particles from the hides and digestive tracts.

Chickens and eggs would be a particularly important direct food resource because they are relatively resistant to radiation, especially if they are raised under cover using safe packaged feeds.

Milk from cows that have grazed on contaminated pastures would be radioactive, but in the absence of other food in an emergency, it could be used.

Potatoes, corn, and other field crops exposed to early fallout would be safe to eat after cleaning. Grain that has been covered, as in elevators, would be safe. Threshing would reduce the amount of fallout particles in grain. Threshed grain exposed to fallout could be made safer by washing.

If county agents are available, they can help you decide what crops, pasturage, and methods will be best and safest to use. Seeds of all sorts are quite resistant to radiation and do not require any special protection.