



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

CIVIL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

An Inventory of Its Miscellaneous Records

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Minnesota. Department of Civil Defense.
- Series Title:** Miscellaneous records,
- Dates:** 1942-1965 (bulk 1955-1965).
- Abstract:** Correspondence and miscellaneous records of the Department of Civil Defense pertaining to natural disaster preparedness and civil defense under enemy attack.
- Quantity:** 0.4 cu. ft. (4 folders).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

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. 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.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Correspondence with the Civil Service Department relating to Department of Civil Defense personnel and payroll matters; records of the Capital Area Survival Plan, which maps out preparedness in the event of fire, attack, flood, serious weather disturbance, and other disasters affecting the capital building; and statements and reports about Operation Alert 1957, a national training exercise for civil defense under enemy attack. Operation Alert records cite the Federal Civil Defense Administration's (FCDA) marking of Minneapolis-St. Paul as a critical target area.

RELATED MATERIALS

Additional State Archives records pertaining to civil defense in a situation of enemy attack are available in the Civil Defense Department. Survival Plan Project records; and the Minnesota Attorney General Subject Files (Series 1), each cataloged separately. A copy of the Minnesota

Survival Plan, the St. Paul Operational Survival Plan, and the Capital Area Survival Plan are also each cataloged separately in the MHS book collection.

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:

Emergency management.
Protecting.

Places:

Minnesota—Officials and employees.
Minnesota—Capital and capitol—Defense measures.
Minnesota—Civil defense.

Organizations:

Minnesota. Civil Service Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here]. Minnesota. Department of Civil Defense. Miscellaneous records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

111.G.7.7B Biennial budgets, 1960-1961.
Civil Service Department correspondence, 1951-1955.
Civil Service Department correspondence and reports, 1954-1958.
Capitol Area Survival Plan and "Operation Alert 1957," 1957.