

I HAVE BUILT a fallout shelter in the basement of my home. It's 13 feet wide and 24 feet long—more than the minimum space required for my family of five.

It's strictly a do-it-yourself project that cost me about \$700 (though it could have been done for a lot less). But the important fact is that it's there—ready for the time it may save the lives of my wife Pamela and my three children.

I have been talking a lot about my bomb shelter on my "Today" TV show—for a reason. I believe every possible American home should be protected by one. Here's why: I'm the head of my family. Like most family heads, I feel protective toward my wife and children. I have adequate life insurance, a form of guarantee that they'll be taken care of if something happens to me. In addition, I try to protect them against anything else that might harm them.

You see, building a family shelter doesn't mean that you're living in morbid fear any more than taking out an insurance policy means that you expect to die tomorrow. But just as you feel better when the insurance policy is in force and your family is protected, so you can feel more secure when you know you've provided for the worst, should it come.

To me the fallout shelter is an insurance device that may some day save my family—and in a greater sense, my country. The danger of radioactive fallout, either from nuclear attack or, conceivably, from a terrible accident, is very real to us all.

The U. S. Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization estimates that in the event of a nuclear attack we can expect casualties as high as 90 percent in a stricken area. There is no absolute defense against nuclear weapons. Yet through the relatively simple and inexpensive expedient of building home shelters, we could reduce casualties as much as 80 percent. Translated into terms of your family and mine, this means that if an all-out-attack comes, our families will survive unless they're in the blast area.

I live in New York City, a prime target for nuclear attack.

You FAMILY WEEKLY readers live in less populous areas, ones not as likely to be bombed.

This immunity from direct attack doesn't preclude the possibility of fatal radiation exposure, however, for as you know, large amounts of earth and debris are drawn upward by the ascending fireball after a nuclear bomb is exploded near the ground. The debris which floats back down is radioactive. We call it fallout. Large deposits of contaminated particles may be carried by the wind for hundreds of miles—perhaps to your home.

NEW YORK's Gov. Nelson Rockefeller is one of the first officials to take action against this menace. He has recommended that all New Yorkers be compelled to add fallout shelters to their homes.

Unfortunately there is little possibility that Federal shelters in any great quantity will be built in the near future. So the responsibility rests squarely on you.

Aside from saving your family, there's another reason why you should build a shelter. If Americans would face the fact that nuclear war is possible and prepare for it, there probably would be no war. The preparedness of the people is as great a deterrent to an aggressor as armies.

Seventy-five percent of FAMILY WEEKLY readers own their homes. If each one were equipped with an adequate radiation shelter—and most have some kind of suitable basement—millions of lives would be spared. Your chances for survival living in secondary target areas would be excellent. So would the nation's.

Building a shelter is not as complicated and expensive as it sounds. A rudimentary but adequate one can be built in your cellar for as little as \$150. If you have a cellar, chances are you can build your own shelter without complications. The guiding principle in planning a radiation shelter is to put sufficient mass between you and the fallout. Concrete, bricks, earth or sand are some materials heavy enough to absorb radiation. We were lucky: three

Your Family Should Have a

FALLOUT



Lead Family to Shelter

In a fallout drill Dave Garroway first leads his family down steps to basement shelter. Michael, 12, leads way, followed by daughter Paris, 15, and Pamela Garroway who carries their youngest child, David, Jr., 18 months.



Tune in News Bulletins

In the event of an enemy attack, bulletins will be heard on assigned Conelrad frequency. Garroway's radio also receives short wave in case domestic news is unavailable. Metal box at right is filter of ventilating unit.

SHELTER

A TV favorite—who's built his own—tells why the head of every family should start protecting his loved ones against the threat of nuclear warfare

by Dave Garroway



Seal Doors and Windows

Garroway uses "safe" period of two to three hours after "blast" to tape doors and windows against radiation. Meanwhile rest of family clear out bulky objects that may have been stored in shelter previous to attack.



Test Air Supply

Electric ventilating system has auxiliary hand crank since, in event of attack, power may be cut. Hammer and axe are stored in case it is necessary to dig way out. Sandbags line wall not reinforced with earth.



Examine Drugs and Food

Mrs. Garroway and Paris confer with Dave about first-aid supplies. These should be adequate for two-week period and contain treatment for burns and cuts, and also vitamins to supplement emergency food rations.

of the cellar walls in our brownstone house on Manhattan's East Side are earth-protected. I buttressed the unprotected areas with some 200 sandbags.

If your cellar isn't earth-protected, perhaps the best type shelter for you would be solid concrete block. The price of the materials varies in different parts of the country, but sample bids last May showed a range between \$150 and \$200. In effect, what you will have if you use the concrete block is a little house inside of your cellar.

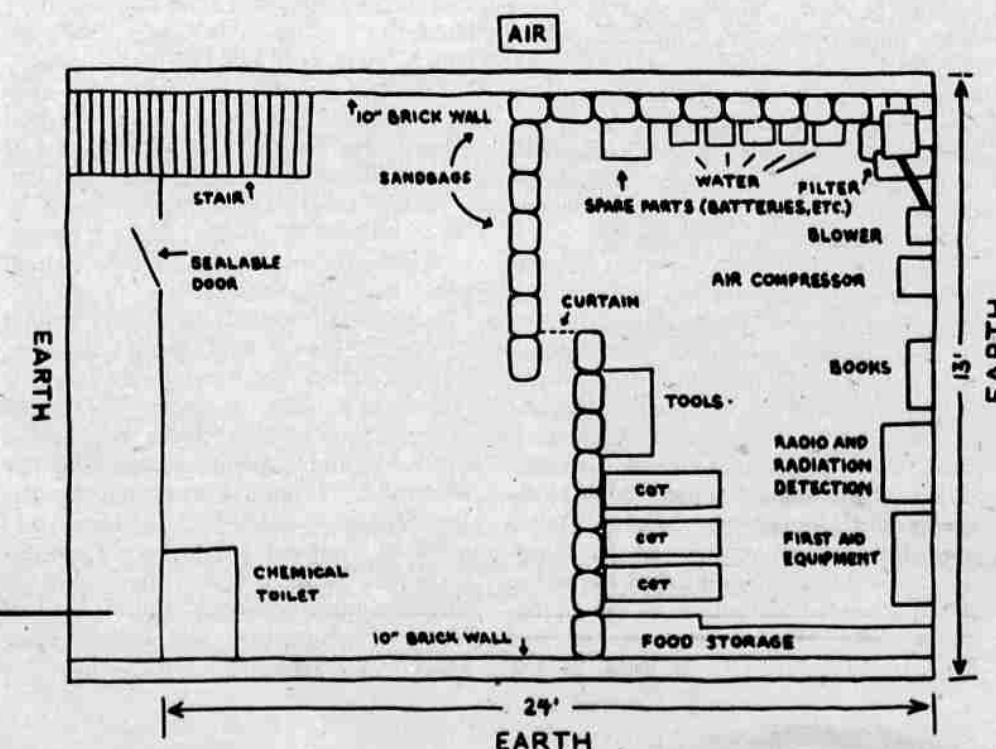
The Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization booklet offered here gives all construction details right down to the plans.

You might have to spend as long as two weeks in the shelter, so it's best to be well prepared. The CD booklet and pictures shown here will give you an idea what to store in the shelter once it's built.

All this is grim business, I know, but of life-and-death importance. Pam and I don't even talk to the kids about it. It's something they wouldn't understand and shouldn't be made to yet. It's enough that they participate in the drills which we have made into family fun.

I hope I've explained why I think fallout shelters are necessary. I hope, too, you'll protect those entrusted to you by building one. Maybe we'll never have a nuclear war—but by building shelters we're doing our part to make sure we don't.

Garroway's own sketch of his fallout shelter in Manhattan home shows area his family can live in while radiation danger continues. During this period it may be impossible for anyone to go above basement level, and equipment should include basic necessities and also books and playing cards to help pass time. Food should be nonperishable, water changed every six weeks.



Free Booklet Available on Fallout Shelters

Leo A. Hoegh, director of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, states: "In an atomic war the blast, heat and initial radiation of nuclear bursts could kill millions of people close to ground zero. Many more millions could be threatened by radioactive fallout. But most of these could be saved. Everyone, even those far from a likely target, would need a shelter from fallout. The Federal Government has a shelter policy based on the knowledge that most of those beyond the range of blast and heat will survive if they have adequate protection."

This Office has prepared a booklet containing complete building plans for five basic fallout shelters. One has been carefully designed as a practical do-it-yourself project. It can be constructed for as little as \$150. Each incorporates the fundamentals for protection: shielding mass, ventilation and living space, and can serve a dual purpose: protection from tornadoes and from fallout.

Family Weekly has made special arrangements with the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization to make these 32-page booklets available to readers at no cost. Simply send a post card to BOX HOME SHELTER—FW, Battle Creek, Mich., for a copy of "The Family Fallout Shelter."