

FEAR AND FEMA

Civil defense provides protection against the risks inherent in chemical, biological, and nuclear technology. These risks are propagated by accident, terrorism, and war. Civil defense also protects against natural risks such as tornadoes, earthquakes, and floods. People naturally react to these dangers with fear.

Fear can be beneficial or debilitating. Some people react to fear by taking protective action. They are benefited by this emotion. Others react to fear by paralyzed inaction or, worse, by actions which actually increase their danger. They can be manipulated by fear and are harmed by this emotion.

The peoples of Switzerland, the Soviet Union, China, and Scandinavia have built civil defense systems in response to their fear of disasters - especially the disaster of war. The people of the United States - that is to say the politicians, bureaucrats, and opinion molders who now control the United States - have reacted to their fear of disasters by appeasement and denial of reality. The United States has no actual civil defense.

Not all Americans are satisfied with this reaction. Most Americans have a naturally positive reaction to fear. Those few who actually realize that the United States has no civil defense exert some political pressure. In Washington, that pressure is translated into about \$150 million per year for civil defense which is given to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Within FEMA there are a few individuals who would actually like to use this \$150 million per year to provide protection for Americans. They have a positive reaction to fear and they also know that the effective use of the FEMA budget for actual civil defense protection would lead to much higher appropriations. \$150 million can provide realistic protection for only a very small fraction of Americans. If, however, a small fraction is protected, most of the remainder will insist upon protection too.

Unfortunately the paper shufflers and do-nothing bureaucrats are firmly in control of FEMA. They shuffle just enough paper with "civil defense" written on it to keep the \$150 million per year flowing into their salaries and perquisites. They carefully provide no actual hardware to protect ordinary Americans. The pretense of civil defense gets the money and the do-nothing response satisfies even the radical anti-civil-defense "peace" and appeasement organizations.

Everyone seems happy - and Americans remain undefended.

Should FEMA be abolished? Probably. Would that improve our civil defenses? Probably not. **Fighting Chance** has chosen to work with those few pro-civil defense people within FEMA in order to strengthen their political positions and to provide them with some resources. This choice has had some positive consequences. These include:

1. The book Nuclear War Survival Skills is now distributed to local emergency management personnel throughout the United States. This book - the only practical text