

## FAMILY CIVIL DEFENSE SHELTER

Recently a friend of ours and supporter of Fighting Chance decided that he did not want to continue to leave his family without civil defense insurance. With nearby neighbors and other impediments to building a large conventional shelter, he decided to install a small shelter similar to the one described in the October 1990 *Fighting Chance Newsletter*.

Having visited that shelter in the displays here at the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine, he decided he wanted a somewhat larger (still small) shelter. He chose a size 68% larger by volume – 54 inches in diameter and 14 feet long with two entryways allowing installation with three feet of earth over the top in the level ground of his back yard.

His shelter has simple blast doors, ventilation by means of the hand fanning technique shown in *Nuclear War Survival Skills*, and no room to stand up. It is rated at a radiation protection factor of over 1000 and a blast protection of about 50 psi. It has enough room for water, food, simple emergency supplies, and the six members of his family – who would find it very uncomfortable and primitive. Sanitation will be by bucket and a plastic bag occasionally tossed out the door. *Nuclear War Survival Skills* is the instruction manual.

Sound unappealing? It sure beats watching his family die – probably slowly from a fatal dose of radiation!

In order to avoid spending the time finding and educating a steel fabricating shop near his home, he decided to have the shelter built by Oak Street Tank and Steel, the company that built the Fighting Chance mobile shelter displays and numerous other shelters here in Oregon. Oak Street Tank and Steel is located at 340 Oak Street in Ashland, Oregon. Their telephone is (503) 482-1536. Ashland is 500 miles from our friend's home.

He picked up his shelter in Ashland this past Monday morning with a small rented U-Haul trailer and drove home 500 miles. Tuesday night, less than 48 hours later, the shelter had been completely buried in his back yard. Installation was so quick that curious neighbors barely had time to notice.

His costs were \$1,675 for the shelter and corrosion protective anode, \$75 for trailer rental, \$100 for gasoline and \$150 for installation by a small backhoe and backhoe operator. He spent \$2,000 for the whole project and three days, primarily driving. Had he settled for the smaller version in our shelter displays, his cost would have been \$1,500.

No doubt he could have built a more elaborate shelter or perhaps found a way to build a less expensive one, but he had thought about these possibilities for quite a while. Now his family is protected. They can forget the whole thing and go on about the positive projects of their lives.

\$1,500 to \$2,000 and a day or two of inconvenience is very inexpensive insurance for a family in the nuclear age.