

Kingston Public Library: Local History Room
Pamphlet Collection
February 2, 2005

Kingston Civil Defense Collection
Bulk dates: 1950 - present
Pamphlet Collection, PC-31

1 box (3 linear inches)

Historical sketch: Established in 1950, the Civil Defense Department for Kingston was planned and organized in accordance with the statewide basic law, Acts of 1950, Chapter 639 and plans of the State Civil Defense Agency. These were made to comply with the Federal Laws for Civic Defense.

Eight divisions were made on a local level, which mirrored divisions made at a State level. These divisions are listed below. The Civil Defense Department was organized “for all the necessary protections of life and property in the event of disaster, calamity or catastrophe.”

Civil Defense was believed to be “first a local problem and duty.” The thought was if the town could prepare, organize, and take care of ourselves first, then we can call on others for some help in an emergency. In order to do this, all capable adult residents were called upon to enroll. Divisions were set up and for the first year (1950) the following residents were division heads (additional listing can be found in subsequent Town Annual Reports). The first Director for the Town of Kingston was Charles W. Lawrance.

1. Administration: (Vacancy)
2. Medical and Health: Dr. William C. Gould and Orfeo H. Sgarzi
3. Rescue, transportation and Evacuation: G. Palmer Holmes, Abraham A. Ruffini, 1st assist. And Kenneth O. Kite, 2nd assist.
4. Police: Chief William H. Brown
5. Fire: Chief G. Palmer Holmes
6. Communications: (Vacancy)
7. Utilities inc. water, electric and gas: Ralph F. Santoro, Chairman of Water Department
8. Civilian War Aid: Percy W. Bailey, Chairman of the Board of Public Welfare

In addition to the above listed divisions, it was also the responsibility of the Civil Defense Department (requested by federal authorities) to enlist town peoples to establish and maintain an airplane spotting station to be used by the Ground Observer Corps and the Air Raid Warning Network.

Scope and content: This Collection focuses mainly on images of the old Maple Avenue Schoolhouse (located on Maple Street) and its renovation into Town Civil Defense offices in 1988.

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Box and folder list:

Box	Folder	Item
1	1	Pamphlet: "Open House: October 1, 1988"
	2	Images: PEO040001
	3	Images: PLA040001 – PLA040036
	4	Armband; Certificate for public service on behalf of Civilian Defense, 1944; Notice of classification, 1940 – 1944 (Frank Randall)
	5	Survival Plan: reception area of evacuation plan, in accord with MCDA Civil Defense Plan, 1958

Acquisition: Retrospective.

Access: Unrestricted.

Copyright: Obtaining proper copyright permission is the responsibility of the Collection user.

Processing note: Volunteer Ruth Ryan processed this Collection and Archivist Carrie Elliott prepared the finding aid for this collection.