

Defense Shelter Prototype To Be Constructed in Boise

Idaho will have the first prototype of community civil defense shelter in the nation, Gov. Robert E. Smylie said Monday.

Announcement of Idaho's selection for construction of the shelter — to be built in the Highlands area of Boise — was received by Smylie from Leo A. Hoegh, director of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization.

"It is noteworthy that this prototype shelter is the first of its kind in the United States," said Hoegh in his announcement to Smylie and Lt. Col. James Keel, Idaho disaster relief and Civil Defense director.

"I commend those people of Boise whose vision, unique ideas and efforts made this project possible," Hoegh said.

Smylie said construction of the \$99,000 structure culminated two years of effort on the part of Highland homeowners and the state civil defense organization.

Designed Locally

The governor explained that design and all other features of the shelter were developed and worked out by the local group.

"These people certainly are to be congratulated for their pioneer work on such a realistic project," said Smylie. "Two years ago a few residents of the Highlands here realized the need for a shelter to protect their families in the event of an enemy attack. Today, that idea becomes a reality."

Smylie said he was informed locally that it was hoped that construction of the shelter would be completed next February.

Protects 1000 People

The 80- by 80-foot shelter, which will be capable of protecting 1000 people in case of an emergency, will serve a dual purpose. Not only will it provide shelter in the event of an attack, but it also can be used as a community center.

OCDM will appropriate \$84,000 of the total from its research funds and the remainder will be provided by the Highland Community Shelter, Inc.,

a non-profit organization composed of residents of the Highlands who purchased a share in the shelter at \$100 a family, according to Keel.

Keel said spearheading the project were Richard Mendenhall and Glenn Buettner. The two-story, underground structure was designed by Edgar B. Jensen, a Boise architect.

Buettner is president of the Highland Community Shelter, Inc. Other officers include Keith Reiman, vice president; Mrs. Pat Wilson, secretary; Sherman Gill, treasurer, and directors, Robert L. Meadow, Virgil Hinshaw, Dorrel Larson, Robert Loughery and Mendenhall.

Both Keel and Buettner explained that the Boise shelter project was approved by OCDM because of its research value.

Government Saved Money

"This probably will mean a large saving to the government," Buettner said. "We've already developed the plans which can be used by communities elsewhere in the nation."

The shelter will be built of reinforced concrete. Land for the structure, access roads and parking facilities are being provided by Highlands, Inc., which developed the residential area.

Buettner explained that the lower floor would have storage space, medical facilities, sleeping quarters, recreation facilities, a small kitchen, showers, toilet and laundry facilities and standby generators.

Includes Kitchen

The second floor, he said, would be used mainly for sleeping quarters, although there would be a completely equipped kitchen and food storage area.

Buettner added that the food storage area would contain food for about two weeks, which would be stored there by individual families.

Each floor will have separate heating plants, Buettner said. Also, there will be an air conditioning system which will provide fresh air at all times and be capable of filtering all contamination.

When completed, Buettner said, the shelter will be available to residents of the outlying area for meetings and conventions and other community activities on a nominal fee basis.

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