

Part VI
SIGNING FOR CIVIL DEFENSE

Section 6A-1 Civil Emergencies

The Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization has developed plans for the control of highway traffic under emergency conditions such as could result from accidental disaster or enemy attack. Particularly these plans are concerned with the possibilities of nuclear warfare.

For the prompt evacuation of threatened areas, the program contemplates the advance designation and marking of "Evacuation Routes." In the event of disaster there will be a closing of highways that cannot be used, a controlled operation of certain designated highways, the establishing of regulation posts for the expediting of essential traffic, and the provision of emergency centers for civilian aid.

To guide and control highway traffic in an emergency, special highway signs will be needed. The signs here specified have been approved by the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization and are here prescribed as standard for use when and where applicable in the civil defense program.

These emergency signs will not permanently displace any of the standard signs that are normally applicable, and as conditions permit they should be replaced or augmented by standard signs.

6A-2 Design of Civil Defense Signs

For economy in stockpiling and in emergency fabrication all the special civil defense signs, with the exception of the Evacuation Route Marker, are designed for a single size of plate measuring 24 by 30 inches, and have a black legend and border on a white background. The background should be reflectorized.

In an emergency these signs may be needed in large numbers. Except for the Evacuation Route Markers, however, which may remain in service indefinitely, they are for essentially temporary use. Consideration should accordingly be given to their fabrication from any light and economical material that can serve through the emergency period.

Any of these signs may be accompanied by a standard triangular marker approved by the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization for marking areas contaminated by biological and chemical warfare agents and radioactive fallout.

6A-3 Evacuation Route Marker (CD-1)

If advance warning of enemy attack can be given it is expected that the residents of urban targets will be evacuated into safer areas. To facilitate this movement "Evacuation Routes" will be selected in cooperation with local highway authorities and marked with a distinctive marker.

The Evacuation Route Marker shall be a circular sign, having a minimum outside diameter of 18 inches, carrying a directional arrow and the legend EVACUATION ROUTE. The standard Civil Defense Symbol, CD inscribed in a triangle within a ring, shall appear near the bottom of the sign, with a diameter of 3½ inches. The legend, arrow, symbol, and border shall be in white on a blue background. At least the arrow and border shall be reflectorized. The arrow designs shall include a straight vertical arrow pointing upward, a straight horizontal arrow pointing to left or right, and a bent arrow pointing to left or right for advance warning of a turn. The arrow may be a separate unit attached to the face of the sign.

The Evacuation Route Marker, with the appropriate arrow, shall be erected 150 to 300 feet in advance of, and at, any turn in an evacuation route, and elsewhere for straight-ahead confirmation where needed. In urban areas it shall be mounted at the right of the roadway, not less than 7 feet above the top of the curb, and at least 1 foot back from the face of the curb. In rural areas it shall be not less than 5 feet above the crown of the roadway and 6 to 10 feet to the right of the roadway edge.

Evacuation Route Markers shall not be placed where they will conflict with normal signs. Where conflict in placement would occur between the Evacuation Route Marker and a standard regulatory sign, the latter shall take precedence. In case of conflict with a standard informational sign the civil defense sign may take precedence.

Placement of Evacuation Route Markers should be made under the supervision of the officials having jurisdiction over the placement of normal traffic signs, but coordination and agreement between contiguous political entities will be necessary to assure continuity of routes.

6A-4 Area Closed Sign (CD-2)

The AREA CLOSED sign shall be used to close a roadway entering an area from which all traffic is excluded because of dangerous radiological or biological contamination. It shall be erected on the shoulder as near as practicable to the right-hand edge of the roadway, or preferably on a portable mounting or barricade partly or wholly in the roadway. For best visibility, particularly

at night, its height should not normally exceed 4 feet to the bottom of the sign. Unless adequate advance warning signs are used, it should not be so placed as to create a complete and unavoidable blockade. Where feasible, the sign should be located at an intersection that provides a detour route.



CD-1
18" diameter (blue)



CD-2
30" x 24"

6A-5 Traffic Regulation Post Sign (CD-3)

The STOP—TRAFFIC REGULATION POST sign shall be used to designate a point where an official post has been set up to impose such controls as are necessary to limit congestion, expedite emergency traffic, exclude unauthorized vehicles, or protect the public. It shall be erected in the same manner as the Area Closed sign (sec. 6A-4) at the point where traffic must stop to be checked.

For emphasis the word STOP shall be in white letters on a black panel at the top of the sign, the remainder of the legend being black on a white background. The word STOP, like the white background, should be reflectorized.



CD-3
24" x 30"



CD-4
24" x 30"

6A-6 Emergency Speed Sign (CD-4)

The MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED sign may be used on highways where radiological contamination is such as to limit the permissible exposure time for occupants of vehicles passing through the area. Since any speed zoning would be impractical under such emergency conditions, no minimum speed limit can be prescribed by the sign in numerical terms. Where traffic is supervised by a traffic regulation post, official instructions will usually be given verbally, and the sign will serve as an occasional reminder of the urgent need for all reasonable speed.

The sign should be erected at random intervals as needed,

in the same manner as other standard speed signs. In rural areas it shall be mounted on the right-hand side of the road with its lower edge not less than 5 feet above the crown of the roadway, 6 to 10 feet from the roadway edge. In urban areas the height shall be not less than 7 feet, and the nearest edge of the sign shall be not less than 1 foot back from the face of the curb. Where an existing Speed Limit sign is in a suitable location, the Top Safe Speed sign may conveniently be mounted directly over the face of the older sign, which it supersedes.

6A-7 Priority Permit Sign (CD-5)

The PRIORITY PERMIT REQUIRED FOR THRU TRAFFIC sign is to be used at an intersection, at the entrance to a route on which a traffic regulation post is located. Its intent is to notify drivers of the presence of the post so that those who do not have priority permits issued by civil defense authorities can detour on another route, or turn back, without making a needless trip and without adding to the screening load at the post. Local traffic, without permits, may proceed as far as the regulation post. The sign shall be erected in a manner similar to that of the Emergency Speed Sign (sec. 6A-6).



CD-5
24" x 30"



CD-6
30" x 24"

6A-8 Emergency Aid Centers Signs (CD-6, etc.)

In the event of emergency, civil defense authorities will establish various centers for civilian relief, communication, medical service, and similar purposes. To guide the public to such centers a series of directional signs will be needed. These signs shall carry the designation of the center and an arrow indicating the direction to the center. They shall be erected as needed, at intersections and elsewhere, on the right-hand side of the roadway, at a height in urban areas of at least 7 feet, and not less than 1 foot back from the face of the curb, and in rural areas at a height of 5 feet, 6 to 10 feet from the roadway edge.

These signs shall carry one of the following legends, as appropriate, or others designating similar emergency facilities:

DECONTAMINATION CENTER
REGISTRATION CENTER

WELFARE CENTER
MEDICAL CENTER