



BHC-MSS 0166
Guide to the Civilian Defense Council Collection
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Civilian Defense Council

Title: Civilian Defense Council Collection

Dates: 1952-1966

Quantity: .3 linear feet (1/2 manuscript boxes)

Abstract: Bridgeport is primarily known for its manufacturing role during World Wars I and II. This is thanks to the number of industries that mobilized during the war. The Air Raid and Civilian Defense Councils helped respond and keep the home front safe. During the Cold War, the Civilian Defense Council remained in place to help the city's residents prepare for the fallout of a nuclear attack or other invasion from the USSR.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

Bridgeport is primarily known for its manufacturing role during World War II. This is thanks to the number of industries that mobilized during the war, including the Bullard Machine Tool Company, Bridgeport Brass, and Sikorsky Aircraft, among many others. However, manufacturing was not the sole focus of Bridgeport during the war. Due to all the manufacturing going on in the city, there was reason to see the city as a target, should action ever move towards the east coast of the United States. As a result, Bridgeport actively organized its home front, working with the State of Connecticut's defense council in order to establish means of defense. Concerns regarding air raids on the city – especially the potential for bombing factories that helped supply the United States' war effort – were high, and a section of the Bridgeport War Council was devoted to air raid preparation, defense, and recovery.

This work relied heavily on volunteer efforts, with the city being split into different zones that were headed by wardens. Those wardens helped to ensure that their area knew the correct safety protocols, kept them compliant with certain regulations such as those regarding blackouts at night, and other concerns. While the work of this group concluded with the end of the war, the Cold War would see the Civilian Defense Council rise up to address concerns about atomic bombs and attack by the USSR instead.

The Civilian Defense Council was responsible for education, creating evacuation plants, conducting training exercises, and designating fallout shelters in the city. It is unclear when the group disbanded.

Scope and Content note:

Material primarily consists of meeting minutes, along with some information about plans and a control center dedication.

Arrangement Note:

Minutes placed first then arranged chronologically. Additional material also arranged chronologically.

Administrative information:

Provenance: 1995.02, found in collections.

Preferred Citation:

Civilian Defense Council Collection (BHC-MSS 0166), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings

Corporate names

[info]

Subject tracings

Cold War

Nuclear fallout

World War, 1939-1945

Detailed box/folder listing

Box 1

1. Minutes, 1952
2. Minutes, 1953
3. Minutes, 1954
4. Minutes, 1955
5. Minutes, 1956
6. Misc., 1950s
7. Plans, 1952, 1961-1962
8. Control center dedication, 1956