

0. AVOIDING the FLASH - Story Preface

1. THE BOMB

2. RADIATION SICKNESS

3. DUCK and COVER

4. AVOIDING the FLASH

5. ROSWELL and AREA 51

6. CRYSTAL SKULLS

7. NAZCA LINES and SKULLS

8. IGUAZU FALLS

Whether officials were certain the Soviets would launch a nuclear attack against America during the 1950s, or simply because the possibility existed, state and federal governments aggressively addressed this question:

What are you supposed to do when you see the flash?

"The flash," of course, refers to an exploding atomic bomb. An overriding concern was that it could happen with no warning.

Massachusetts issued a brochure for its citizens called Protection from the Atomic Bomb. It includes statements like this:

*IF YOU HAVE HAD NO WARNING IN AN A-BOMB ATTACK
WHEN YOU SEE A FLASH OF LIGHT
BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN -
Don't run: there isn't time.
Fall flat on your face.
GET DOWN FAST!*

At the same time the federal government issued similar warnings, it *also* created films and brochures explaining the effects of a bomb and urging people to stay in their cities - and fight - in case an enemy dropped a nuclear bomb. Our Cities Must Fight, the 1951 Civil Defense film, contains lines like this:

*Staying in a city after an Atomic attack
is not as dangerous as people think.*

The federal government, and other institutions, have been criticized for creating films and brochures which failed to provide people with accurate information on the adverse effects of exploded nuclear bombs. Comparing the knowledge learned from observing sick people in Japan, with the scripts of government-sponsored films created six years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, one can understand those concerns.

Further, the U.S. government required about 6,500 soldiers to participate in "Operation Buster-Jangle," in 1951. The training mission was not voluntary, but the men were exposed to Nevada's "Desert Rock" nuclear explosions.

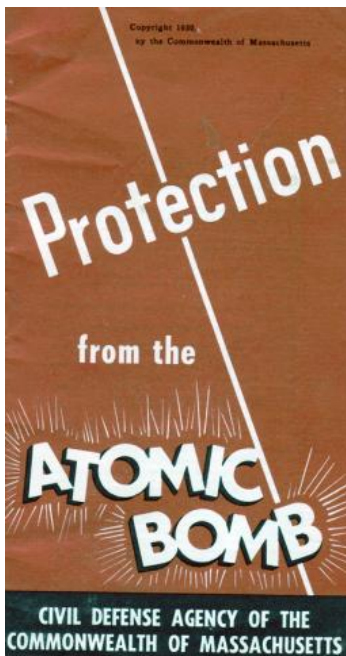
What government officials said in 1947 - about the Roswell Incident - led to *much* more than public criticism and disbelief. Let's investigate the evidence of that infamous event.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/AVOIDING-the-FLASH-Indiana-Jones-4-Crystal-Skull)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/AVOIDING-the-FLASH-Indiana-Jones-4-Crystal-Skull)

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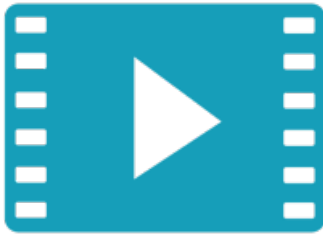


Protection from Atom Bomb - Massachusetts Warning

U.S. National Archives.

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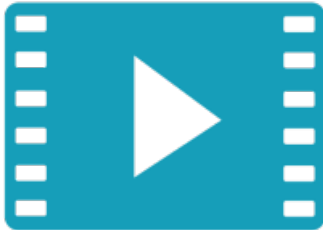
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Protection-from-Atom-Bomb-Massachusetts-Warning>



Nagasaki - Nuclear Attack

BBC Documentary on Nagasaki.

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Atomic Bomb Attack - Our Cities Must Fight

U.S. Civil Defense Film, 1951.

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Operation Buster Jangle - Soldiers Exposed to Fallout

Video clip of Buster-Jangle Dog Shot - which took place on November 1, 1951 - online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

Quoted passages from the official report, prepared and released by the U.S. Department of Defense, as noted above.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Operation-Buster-Jangle-Soldiers-Exposed-to-Fallout0>