Historically, civil defense has referred to a range of emergency measures to be taken by an organized body of civilian volunteers for the protection of life and property in the event of natural disaster or enemy attack. Such measures pertained to preparation in advance of such a disaster or attack, protection during the disaster or attack, and recovery and restoration following the disaster or attack. Civil defense had its beginnings in the United States in the 1930’s and peaked (for the second time) in the early 1980’s.

Since then, there has been a shift from “civil defense” as defined above to “comprehensive emergency management” defined in various laws throughout the United States as the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, other than functions for which the military forces are primarily responsible, to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters, and to aid victims suffering from injury or damage, resulting from disasters caused by all hazards, whether natural, technological, or human caused, and to provide support for search and rescue operations for persons and property in distress.

Comprehensive Emergency Management is the philosophy that gave birth to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the eventual decline of the term “civil defense” in the United States. Under Comprehensive Emergency Management, attention is given to the full range of emergencies from small weather incidents to the "ultimate emergency" of war including nuclear attack. It is an "all-hazards" philosophy stands in contrast to previous state and federal emergency management that focused solely on a massive nuclear war particularly with the Soviet Union.[2]

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN KENTUCKY**

Title V (Military Affairs) Chapter 39A (Statewide Emergency Management Programs) of the Kentucky Revised Statutes governs the provision of emergency management services in Kentucky.

**KRS 39A.030** reads in part as follows:

The General Assembly recognizes that the rationale and purpose of the comprehensive emergency management program of the Commonwealth has evolved from a program for response to threats to national security, enemy attack, and other national defense needs, to a program for response to all hazards, but primarily, domestic hazards and threats including natural, man-made, technological, industrial, or environmental emergencies or disasters, for which civil government is primarily responsible.
KRS 39A.050 reads in part as follows:

The Division of Emergency Management [under the Department of Military Affairs] shall coordinate for the Governor all matters pertaining to the comprehensive emergency management program and disaster and emergency response of the Commonwealth. The division shall be the executive branch agency of state government having primary jurisdiction, responsibility, and authority for the planning and execution of disaster and emergency assessment, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery for the Commonwealth; the coordination of all disaster and emergency response by and between all state agencies, all agencies of city, county, and urban-county or charter county government, all local entities, and all political subdivisions of the Commonwealth [emphasis added] for an emergency, declared emergency, disaster, or catastrophe as contemplated in KRS 39A.010, 39A.020, or 39A.030; the coordination of, and liaison with, related or concerned federal government agencies, elected officials of other states, private organizations or private sector companies dealing with disaster and emergency response; the coordination of all recovery operations and mitigation initiatives subsequent to disasters or emergencies; and the coordination of all public information activities regarding state government disaster and emergency response operations.

The Division of Emergency Management shall have and exercise the following powers, authorities, and duties:

To develop, administer, and maintain a statewide comprehensive emergency management program for the Commonwealth, and through it an integrated emergency management system for the disaster and emergency response of the Commonwealth, which shall be coordinated with the emergency management programs, and other related public safety, emergency response, mitigation, or disaster recovery programs, of all appropriate federal government agencies;

To coordinate the development, implementation, and maintenance of comprehensive emergency management programs by local emergency management agencies in the cities, counties, and urban-county or charter county governments of the Commonwealth [emphasis added] to ensure that all such programs, agencies, and organizations are organized, administered, and operated as functional components of the integrated emergency management system of the Commonwealth;

To develop and maintain a comprehensive, risk-based, all-hazards disaster and emergency response plan entitled "Kentucky Emergency Operations Plan;"

To maintain and operate the State Emergency Operations Center facility, which shall be the official and primary state government twenty-four (24) hour warning point, communications, and command center, from which the Governor, cabinet secretaries, department heads, and other state agency officials can, at any time, rapidly, adequately, and effectively manage the disaster and emergency response of the Commonwealth.

To develop, monitor, and operate, on a twenty-four (24) hour per day basis, the appropriate alerting or warning systems, public safety telecommunications systems, or radio networks; any state trunked, fiber, or interactive communication systems; computer,
fax, other telecommunications or information networks; and systems needed for communication and coordination with all necessary or appropriate federal, state, or local public safety, law enforcement, emergency management, or other disaster and emergency response agencies, and state or local dispatch centers in the Commonwealth, and other appropriate interests;

To immediately notify the Governor, the adjutant general, and the executive director of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, or his or her designee, in the event of any major emergency incidents or disaster occurrences, or the threatened or impending occurrence of any of these events, and to keep the Governor, the adjutant general, and the executive director of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, or his or her designee, informed of all actions being taken in response to these events;

To respond to the scenes of emergencies or disasters, or their threatened or impending occurrence and to directly and immediately investigate, analyze, and assess the nature and seriousness of these situations; to convene meetings, gather information, conduct briefings, and evaluate ongoing emergency response activities; take actions to execute the appropriate provisions of the Kentucky Emergency Operations Plan; coordinate the establishment and operation of a state incident management system; establish or manage sub-state or area emergency operations centers, or on-scene command posts; and fully expedite and coordinate the disaster and emergency response of the Commonwealth;

To establish and operate area field offices of the division, each office to be headed by an area manager, responsible for administering the policies, plans, programs, and duties of the division in specific geographic areas of the Commonwealth, including the coordination of comprehensive emergency management programs developed by the cities, counties, urban-county, or charter county governments in the areas;

To provide funds to the cities, counties, and urban-county or charter county governments of the Commonwealth to support the development, administration, operation, and maintenance of local emergency management agencies;

To ascertain the requirements of the Commonwealth and its cities and counties for emergency resources and the necessities of life in the event of disaster or emergency;

To institute public information and education programs, emergency management training programs, and exercise programs to test and evaluate emergency operations plans and disaster and emergency response and recovery capabilities; and

**CIVIL DEFENSE/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AT JCTC**

Jefferson Community and Technical College has no facilities designated as “civil defense” or “bomb shelter” or “public shelter” facilities as was customary with public buildings in the days of civil defense prior to comprehensive emergency management. Response to any crisis, emergency, or disaster—natural or man-made—by employees, students, guests, contractors and vendors of the College shall be in accordance with this Safety Manual, especially and specifically as indicated
throughout this Section V (Emergency Management); Section XII (Severe Weather And Natural Disasters); and Section XV (Workplace Violence).

CIVIL DEFENSE/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRAPHICS

The old United States Civil Defense logo was created in 1939 and retired in 2006. The triangle emphasized the 3-step Civil Defense philosophy used before the foundation of FEMA and Comprehensive Emergency Management consisting of: Mitigation, Preparation, and Response.

The new Emergency Management logo replaced the old Civil Defense logo in 2006 and is designed to “inspire people to become more involved in their own protection and preparedness.”

The international distinctive sign of civil defense, defined by the rules of International Humanitarian Law to be used as a protective sign, appears on the following page. This civil defense logo is a protected international symbol under the Geneva Convention and is only authorized on uniforms, civil defense vehicles, official paper work and official websites, although each country has its own national logo which is displayed alongside the international logo on uniforms, et cetera.
Civil Defense literature such as the following were common during the cold war era:

Posters like these were used to promote "Civilian Defense" during WWII:
Typical posters in bus depots and subways: