

Fairfax Unit Cracks Down On Housing

The Fairfax County Health Department has ordered 198 substandard houses demolished and 202 others placarded as unfit for human habitation since the county's housing hygiene code went into effect on Sept. 1, 1961.

Dr. Harold Kennedy, county health director, reported yesterday that his department has reviewed 767 housing cases under the code in the last two years. Of these, 559 involved white families and 208, Negro.

Kennedy said that initial emphasis has been placed on eliminating those houses in extreme dilapidation, most of which were vacant and uninhabitable.

He said these are dwellings "which in times of recession would become occupied by migrants from other areas, posing fire, safety and health hazards to the lives of these families."

Of the 400 houses either demolished or placarded, 260 were vacant before the health department acted, Kennedy said.

He estimated that before the new law went into effect there were about 4000 dilapidated and deteriorating houses in the county, of which at least 500 were vacant. The remainder of these 'vacant dwellings will be "processed as soon as possible," he said.

In the coming year, he said, the Health Department intends to double the previous rate of processing housing cases.