



# MEMBERS UPDATE

August 2022

## TOP 10 EVACUATION MUST-HAVES FOR A FIRE OR FLOOD

**The Most Versatile Knife On Earth**

**6 Things To Have When SHTF  
And You're Away From The Bug-Out Bag**

**World Conflict: Why Prepping Matters More Than Ever**

**NEXT ISSUE: Handguns: Size Matters**

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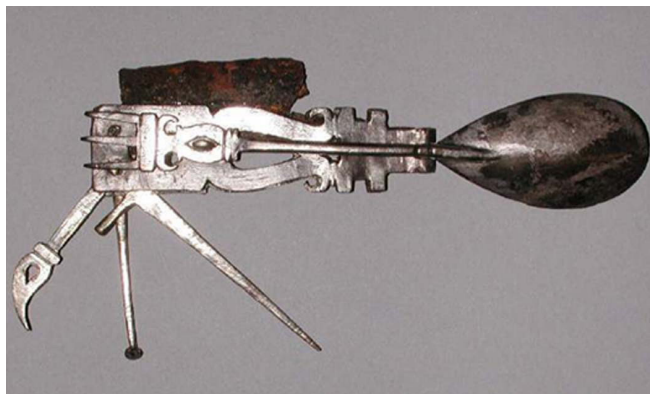
### **Top 10 Evacuation Must-Haves for a Fire or Flood**

Wildfires and storms can cause sudden evacuations, and unfortunately, it only takes one incident to turn your entire life upside down. As survivalists, a fire or flood could ruin your bug out bag and other supplies. What should you do if a fire or flood are headed your way?



## THE MOST VERSATILE KNIFE ON EARTH

In order for all of you to continue stampeding back here every month for the quality reading you have come to expect, my wonderful editors and I kick around ideas to slake your thirst for the no holds barred coverage of the subjects you love. I'll have to admit, when they sent this topic down the pike, I panicked a bit. My mind began to race. Had I missed a memo from the Dundee Institute announcing that they had just bestowed the mantle of knife on a revolutionary new piece of steel? Had I suffered some sort of head injury affecting my short term memory? I dashed to the internet and began a frantic search. By the end of my journey on the "superhighway" I confirmed what I had first suspected, no new knife had emerged to claim the title of being the most versatile on earth. Owing to that fact, we will explore the history, popularity, and endurance of the knife that has been the go-to in knife versatility for over 125 years.



### THE BIRTH OF KNIFE VERSATILITY

The idea of a multi-functioning knife can be traced back to well over 2,000 years ago. Archaeological digs have unearthed examples of a Roman knife with 5 tools built into it constructed sometime in

the third century BC. In his book "Moby Dick", Melville described a knife which was much more than that. He wrote that it looked like a common pocket knife with screwdrivers, corkscrews, tweezers, awls, pens, nail files, and countersinkers. It seems as though back in 1851, Herman had a flash of psychic mediumship in his description of a knife that would come to fruition close to 50 years later and presently incorporates all previously mentioned tools. By the late 1880's, the Swiss Army was looking for a general purpose tool that could be used for easing camp life and performing maintenance on the M1889 Swiss Service Rifle. It had been common practice with armies around the world to issue a tool solely for the purpose of proper rifle care. The Swiss were not really on board with sticking to the status quo, so they went shopping for a knife maker that could fill the order. Unfortunately, there were no Swiss companies that had the production capacity to fulfill the army's request, so they contracted with the German firm of Wester & Company in Solingen, a town already famous as a home for manufacturers of fine knife blades, and the initial run of 15,000 knives was delivered in October of 1891. The dark oak gripped knife consisted of a single blade, reamer, can opener, and screw driver and was designated by the Swiss as the Modell 1890. In 1891, a native son of Switzerland was adamant that the knife provided to the nation's defenders should be Swiss made and by the latter part of that year, he began production of these knives in his humble cutlery works. Dissatisfied with the design of the knife supplied by the Germans, Karl Elsener set about to design what would become the most recognized and versatile knife the third rock has ever seen.



## **SOMETIMES A MOTHER IS BEHIND A SUCCESSFUL MAN**

Karl Elsener was no stranger to the finer points of knife making. He had completed his apprenticeship in Zug and kicked around for some time in a journeyman capacity until 1884. That year, with the financial and moral support of his mother, he opened a factory in Ibach devoted to knife and surgical instrument manufacture. Elsener had learned his trade well as he stamped knife blanks from steel to expedite production, leaving the time consuming hand forged process in the dust. Even though he had the capabilities to provide the same knife as the Germans, the Swiss government still purchased from their neighbors to the north due to quantity and price. This caused Elsener to lose a considerable amount of money, however his mother was always there for the encouragement and finances when he needed it.

The company that would eventually become Wenger, received the military contract to provide the Modell 1890 alongside Elsener. In 1896, while breaking a mental sweat at the ol' drawing board, Karl designed a single spring mechanism that would allow knife blades and tools to be placed on both sides of the handle at the same time, all utilizing the same said spring, which could increase the amount of steel goodness wedged between the handles of a knife. The next year he introduced a redesign of the original knife by adding a second small cutting blade, corkscrew, and a cost effective wood fiber grip. Elsener patented his design as The Officer's and Sports Knife even though he lacked a contract with the military, but that was to be short lived as the design would garner Elsener a boat load of cash through international sales and serious interest from the Swiss Army.



# **VICTORINOX**

## **GIVE IT A NAME**

Things were harmoniously humming along for Karl Elsener and Company up until 1909. That year he lost his most important benefactor and biggest cheerleader, his mother. In honor of the dearly departed and contribution towards her son's success, Elsener named his company Victoria and stamped all of his knives with the cross and shield emblem of his homeland, Switzerland. Karl didn't live to see his company re-named in 1921. By contracting the original name with "inox", an abbreviated version of the French word for stainless steel, *acier inoxydable*, the company became Victorinox, thus giving a recognizable name to the company responsible for the most versatile knife in the annals of history.

He also didn't live to see the universal handle hung on the knife he designed. It was during the Second World War that this bundle of versatility got stuck with its famous moniker due to nothing more than a simple barrier in language and pronunciation of the knife's actual name. The official designation was the "Schweizer offiziermesser" or Swiss officer knife, so that is what befuddled the multitude of G.I.'s in town for the International Hitler Ass Kicking Convention held at the Berlin Arts and Expo Center located right off the AdolfHitlerStraße und Göringplatz. Some troops who couldn't sprechen had a squat around the campfire and tried to figure out what to call it, settling on the descriptive name Swiss Army Knife to quell any further confusion. Troops returning home from combat also brought home this handy little gadget to use for their everyday problems or bought in bulk, handing them out as gifts to loved ones and friends after their emotional reunions. The wildfire effect the unofficial G.I. ad campaign for the knife in the states had on Victorinox was explosive, with sales going through the roof as demand for the knife in the U.S. has never abated since shortly after hostilities ceased.

## **WHAT WOULD MACGYVER DO?**

The popularity of the knife never waned in post-war America, in fact, by the late seventies,



the public's interest in the Swiss Army Knife would culminate in an exhibition of the knife at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, showcasing the design, innovation, and versatility of a cultural icon.

Never one to be out of the spotlight for too long, the Swiss Army Knife was thrust upon the world by Hollyweird under the guise of a 7 season moneymaker called MacGyver. It was about a globetrotting troubleshooter working for a foundation looking to make the world a better place, a pretty simple and idealistic premise. Although I wasn't too thrilled with the characters attitude towards firearms, I tuned in every week because I knew at some point he would pull that red handled beauty from his pocket and make the most mind boggling of projects or devices with it, that and the off chance D-Day from Delta House would show up to ruin Mac's day with some sort of get rich scheme involving many hilarious hijinks along the way, ending with a hearty laugh, freeze frame, and.....roll credits. Yes, I will admit that I bought something that Hollyweird was hawking, however I was getting a weekly demonstration of the knife's capabilities, albeit in a purely fantastical sense, but they used various models on the show enabling me to see the blades they had to offer, therefore allowing me to shop for my knife from the comfort of home.

To show you how sought after the Swiss was during this period of time, I had a raincheck for my Spartan model tucked in my wallet for four months after it was issued. I called the local Best store pestering the staff almost daily asking if it had come in yet, I was nine, so sue me. I am sure at the end of the four months the staff had a collective, tentative sigh of relief and hope that that one kid that keeps calling about that knife mercifully stops. Since the Swiss Army Knife became the de facto

star of that show and its current incarnation, it is no wonder that the desire for this knife has helped to bump Victorinox's production up to the 500 million mark by 2017. Current daily production hovers around 34,000, with a yearly production of 2 million, resulting in 90% going towards distribution to over 100 different countries worldwide and the remainder for issue to members of the Swiss military and civilian ownership.

## REGAINING THE MONOPOLY

Since nineteen aught eight, Wenger and Victoria/Victorinox had split the military contract between both companies in a bit of safe, friendly competition, stoking innovation that bore some pretty wild knife designs. Do a search on Wenger's monster seven pound, 87 tool model 16999 Swiss Army Knife Giant, you'll see what I mean. By 2005, Wenger was in financial straits and was bought out by Victorinox to save the product line. The Wenger brand was allowed to continue under Victorinox's shepherding, but was ultimately turned out to pasture when the parent company wanted to spend more time on its own knife brand and peripheral products. Between the two, the Swiss Army has been well stocked with these tools each year since the contract split, making mountains of money, but ultimately one competitor will always emerge victorious in any contest, it just so happens that the chickens came back to roost at their true home, and Victorinox couldn't be happier about it.

Even though the Swiss Army Knife has been a commercial success for its manufacturer, the company still holds the only contract with the military and must satisfy its obligation to them before satiating the ravenous general public. Each man in Switzerland has a choice between 260 days service in the military or 390 days of civil service, much like Germany, and if one chooses the military route, one of the first things issued is the stalwart knife nicknamed for the army they serve. In an interesting coming full circle story, the Swiss now supply knives to the military of the country that supplied the Swiss Army with its original knife, talk about cornering the market! You might be surprised to find out that in a country that has no problem with a gun in every home, they sure do have some weird ideas when it comes to a knife and when to classify it as a weapon, much like our anti-2A mutants when it comes to guns in

this country. Although the laws reside in the haze of the gray zone and are not usually enforced, unless you are wearing a fixed blade job with a long edge and looking to duel, you should be ok with a folding concealable blade. The Swiss Army Knife has been classified as a non-weapon due to its multi-functionality, thereby clearing it for personal ownership amongst the Swiss populace. The average citizen in Switzerland owns a median number of 2.5 pocket knives which puts 15 million shanks on the street, outnumbering the nearly 8.8 million people who reside there, yet the only major crimes committed are theft and criminal damage complaints. The fact that only 45 homicides were perpetrated countrywide in 2020, leaving the rest to petty humans pulling off capers without the messy bodily injury, should be a clear lesson from our perpetually neutral friends to the morons arguing against a freely armed populace over here in the U.S.

## THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE RIGHT JOB

There is absolutely no doubt that the Swiss Army Knife has rightfully earned its place as a paragon of innovation, design, durability, and versatility,



weathering all who come to compete simply by not reinventing the wheel or knife, in this case. That is the reason my Spartan model has been a faithful pocket companion for the past 32 years, going everywhere with me, and, I kid you not, used every single day to overcome

minor inconveniences that crop up, so much so, I lost the tweezers a while ago and the metal cross and shield logo finally fell off a couple of years back. Victorinox offers over 100 different models of their Swiss Army Knife from the small keyring version to their large fully packed pocket knives. As I mentioned before, Victorinox has never needed to labor over a drawing board since the one spring, multi blade design slashed its way on to the multi-tool/cutlery scene. Many models are crafted with an individual's lifestyle in mind, with the Huntsman, Climber, Camper, Explorer, and Hiker being among some of the models popular with the outdoors crowd. All of them have some pretty neat tools attached to them, but I like being prepared, that is why I have been recently eyeballing

the Swiss Champ model as a friend for my good pocket buddy. It incorporates the tools of other models and provides every tool you could possibly need for a leisurely walk in the park or a hardcore extended sojourn to the deepest parts of the back forty. Its big brother, the Swiss Champ XXL, is for those that are looking to take on the world and win. This behemoth is considered a medium sized pocket knife, however it packs in every single tool offered on other models including a magnetic driver with multi-size screw bits. Victorinox has an excellent line of accessories for your knife including replacement tweezers and toothpicks, smaller sized screwdrivers that nest with the corkscrew, pouches, mini ballpoint pens, lanyards, compact sharpeners, and for us survival minded folk out there, a mini tool glow in the dark FireAnt fire starter which also nests in the corkscrew and comes with six reliable waterproof helix tinders. The variety of knives and the tools they furnish are truly spectacular, one need only use a Swiss Army Knife for a couple of days to see why it has survived as a comfortably versatile knife multi-tool that held its own with ease when the likes of Leatherman and Gerber broke into the multi-tool racket. Along with being a Jack of all trades, the Swiss Army Knife has always been reasonably priced, so if you are in the market for one, check out the Swiss Army website and pick your poison.



The Swiss Champ XXL is the most expensive of the medium everyday carry knives and will set you back about 380 U.S., while the middle of the road eye candy I have been stalking is a nominal C-note.

Slide on over to the site and see what tips your fancy as you will not be disappointed with what they have to offer, I guarantee it.

This year, Victorinox issued a limited edition replica of Karl Elsener's original knife. With a modification of both screwdrivers and a red handle for the wood fiber grip, the knife would be virtually indistinguishable from the Spartan model that came down the road a bit later. The fact that this knife has endured for so long without deviation from its original single spring design, only improving with each model dreamed up by the R&D boys and gals, is a true testament and tribute to Karl Elsener and the woman that lent her name and support to him and his company, Victoria, his mother. She will live on for a long, long time because of the humble gratitude of a loving son. So, until next time, dear reader, stay safe and let's be careful out there.

## 6 Things To Have When SHTF & You're Away From The Bug Out Bag

Many moons ago, before she acquiesced to being saddled with the Herculean task of being the missus, my beloved never stopped marveling at how I was able to produce almost anything she needed, at any moment, from my pockets without breaking a sweat. I'll admit I wasn't practicing the art of anticipation, a major plus in any relationship, so I have been told, rather following a habit I had picked up as a kid after having one too many experiences where I didn't have what I needed right then and there. So, because of that, I made some adjustments to the old wardrobe, gathered the items that I would require the most use out of consistently, and moseyed out into the world, a secure, confident man. Although I was never a Boy Scout, their motto seems to be pretty sound policy for daily living, and thusly you should always be prepared with some basics if you ever find yourself out of your element when the system finally collapses and stands on the precipice of the abyss, so you can safely navigate and fight your way back to familiar territory to grab the bug-out bag, and head for the hills.



### *You're A Daisy If You Have*

It goes without saying that a sidearm will probably be the most important item to have on your person when anarchy comes a calling. For you EDC and occasional carriers out there, this has been abundantly clear the further we progress into the rather unstable future ahead. If you have been on the fence about getting a EDC firearm or concealed carry permits in non-constitutional carry states, I urge you to drop what you are doing and get on it.



With the recent affirmation by the highest court in the land as to the question of individual defense outside the home, as if the 2A wasn't explicit enough, this is the perfect time for you to purchase that gun and get that permit before some of the blue state administrations try and discover some horse manure technicality to get around it.

Whether you are new to firearms or a seasoned veteran, practice and yet more practice with your mohaska and its accessories will surely make you a force to be reckoned with. I leave choice of caliber entirely up to you as shooters should be proficient in understanding all aspects of firearms, including ballistics, therefore the research will be entirely up to you, however we did spend some time on that very subject a ways back, so I encourage you to check it out if you want the 411. Those new to shooting or wanting to pack heat for protection should head on down to the local big box shooting range that has a large variety gun store and gunsmith on-site. While there, you can shoot the breeze with staff, rent out different weapons to get an idea of what size and caliber feels right, and, oftentimes, one may be able to take a concealed carry class, if offered. This will definitely be the easiest route to take to get you trained and armed, instead of wasting precious time with personal, over analytical research. So go out, spray some lead, have some fun, remembering that you have now increased you and your family's overall survivability exponentially.



### *The Sword Will Be Mightier Than The Pen When The Grid Goes*

Since firearms are a tool designed for one purpose only, the next item on our list can easily transition from cutting meat at the dinner table to bloodletting on the battlefield. When it comes to the type and quantity of knives that you have on your person at

any given time will depend on your lifestyle and, in some cases, your occupation. As for everyday carry, I would suggest a fixed blade tactical knife (within the boundaries of the law, of course), a small 2 or 3 blade pen knife, and a multi tool knife of the Swiss Army, Gerber, or Leatherman variety. This will allow you to have a knife for close quarters combat and two other knives available to take care of the minor inconveniences that pop up when making your way back to friendly lines.

Knives should also be trained with, so that using them will be like second nature, just like firearms. Even if you carry a firearm, it would be beneficial if you were to take a course in tactical hand to hand and knife combat to be well equipped for when it's "game on." Yeah, I know you're thinking the whole knife to a gun fight thing, however, it never hurts to be knowledgeable in many forms of fighting because, although you can't see the future, you should plan and be ready for any eventuality where your life is in peril and you need to break free and evacuate PDQ.

The knives currently on the market needed for survival peripheral to full on stabby stabby take up very little space which will facilitate multiple knife carry without sacrificing other important items. There are a ton, I mean a ton of vendors out there hawking their wares, luring you in with shiny things and interestingly designed blades, but at the end of the day, these things are wall hangers and would break the first time they entered a fracas. Avoid these suckers at all costs. The majority of these knives are shoddy affairs constructed of materials from the communist menace across the Pacific. When it comes to cutlery, American made is the way to go, as the materials and craftsmanship are of much better quality.

Many American based companies use either domestic or imported parts, or a combination of both, in their knives. If you are looking at name brand blades, be sure to read fully the description of the knife you are looking to purchase so that you know just what components are being used. If you are looking for absolutely made in the US stuff, blacksmiths skilled in blade forging are an excellent source for tough, combat ready ribticklers and you will be supporting small mom

and pop organizations in the process, a win-win situation for all involved.



### *Lighting Your Path In this Dark World*

I have always had a love hate relationship when it comes to the many technological gadgets out there to make life a little easier. Some of these gadgets are most certainly helpful, but others are dead weight in the life improvement category. One such item, harboring no ill will from me, has been around for ages, made vastly better over the years by industrious persons who shook their fist at the night screaming “I’m mad as hell and not going to take it anymore” or something along those lines.

Flashlights have come a long way since the first D cell incandescent bulb torch was patented around the turn of the last century. These days, flashlights from first rate makers sport small, long lasting, and incredibly bright LED bulbs that melt away the darkness, leaving no avenue for the predators of the world to sneak up on you. Leaving the house with a flashlight everyday may seem weird to some, however it is a practical tool that will aid your survival when all hell breaks loose.

Since we have dealt with gun mounted lights in the tactical gear article, this discussion will focus solely on belt mounted or pocket models. Maglite has been something of a gold standard in the world of illumination, producing flashlights constructed from tough aluminum aircraft grade material, and offering a generous adjustable light stream. While Maglite is great for daily, non-stress situations, I have always been a fan of Streamlight and their line of tactical lights, specifically the Sidewinder hands free light. This high impact, tough nylon cased light is waterproof up to a half hour in 3 feet of the life sustaining elixir and rated to survive a 6 foot fall. The head is adjustable with 4 different light options including white, red, blue or green, and infrared, all

of which can be increased or decreased in intensity with a click of the power button. These lights also feature a strobe function for use in alerting aircraft or terrestrial based parties. The short, slim design can easily be slipped into a pocket or can be attached to your belt with the included clip. When used in conjunction with your daily carry weaponry, a flashlight will be a welcome addition to your daily gear, especially if you lack one on your sidearm or what have you.



### *Live To Fight Another Day*

Keeping yourself in peak physical and mental condition when dealing with the aftermath of total societal collapse will be paramount to your survival. While there is so much the human body can do in dealing with illness or injury, it can be helped along with supplementation from a personal first aid kit. This is one area in which to let yourself go wild in choosing what to put in your kit as it will be a reflection of your needs or level of medical aptitude. A visit to any on-line medical supplier will provide you with everything to stock a decent survival first aid kit.

Since the products are varied, we won’t go too in depth on the size, type and function of what to have, rather we will focus on the essentials and cut you loose to add personal indulgences. You should always include everything to manage your immediate medical needs like prescription medication, rescue inhalers, epi-pens, etc. A variety of over the counter anti-inflammatories in a slim bottle or case, band-aids, hemostatic dressings, gauze bandages, chest seals, coagulant powder, waterproof tape, and a smaller sized pair of trauma shears. This kit can be

built upon as your needs demand or proficiency in medical knowledge progresses.

A basic or advanced first aid course is advisable to take so that you have some idea as to what you are doing if you become injured. You may pursue certificate or license level training but that will be costly and may not even be necessary. One valuable skill to add to your repertoire would be the art of suturing. Better than a butterfly enclosure and more secure than a band aid, it will be helpful to know how to sew someone or yourself up when the hole is a bigger boo-boo than a plastic strip can handle. One problem you will face is in obtaining suture silk as its by prescription only, so it will be incumbent upon you to scrounge this item up. However, the know-how can be obtained from military and civilian texts, videos, and coercing or bribing, whichever the case, a friend or relative into teaching you.

Having a well stocked kit with what you need to keep your mind and body healthy, while wading through a living nightmare, will be important in getting you home in one piece.



## The Survival Junk Drawer

Some of the things you may need when things go sideways consist of smaller items vital to your survival. These will include such things as waterproof matches, water purification tablets, a small wire wood saw, 100 yards of fishing line with a couple of hooks, a small compass, a compact emergency blanket, compact knife sharpener, and anything else you can think of to put in there to suit your needs. A repurposed Altoid tin or two will hold all these items without a problem or they can be stored in an across the body sling bag or super stylish fanny bag. Many knives can be purchased with a fire starter stick and sharpener, so these are a couple of items that can be discarded from the container in favor of another survival item to fill the void. The purification tablets can make water taste pretty nasty, so if you are interested in a non chemical tasting beverage, look into getting a straw or a small heavy duty micron filter device that filters out all the bad stuff 99.99% of the time. It would also be a good idea to pick up a couple of different metal wallet multi-tool cards that will be of use should the need arise. I have one that I picked up at the dollar store, pardon me, the buck and a quarter store these days, which has a saw edge on one side that I like to use to shave wet wood down to the nice, dry kindling needed for getting your fire started pronto. It also has a ruler, map tool, wrench holes, knife edge, paracord cutter, and a can and bottle opener. These little honey's are a great compliment tool to your cutlery and are a lifesaver in a pinch.

What you pack with you will be entirely at your discretion, but if you have the basics listed above, you will definitely be head and shoulders above others in the survival game.

*Every Move You Make,  
Every Step You Take,  
I'll Be Watching*

It is frustrating enough to daily be out of your comfort zone or element the further you get from it, however it will be exponentially more stressful when everything falls apart and you find yourself far from base camp. As it happens, things never seem to work



out the way you want at the particular time and most people would say that is the way life goes. I disagree vehemently. We all know it's a guy named Murphy and he rightly deserves to be roundly kicked in the family store for all the misfortunes in life. I kid, of course, and digress, however it is true what is said, about the best laid of plans.

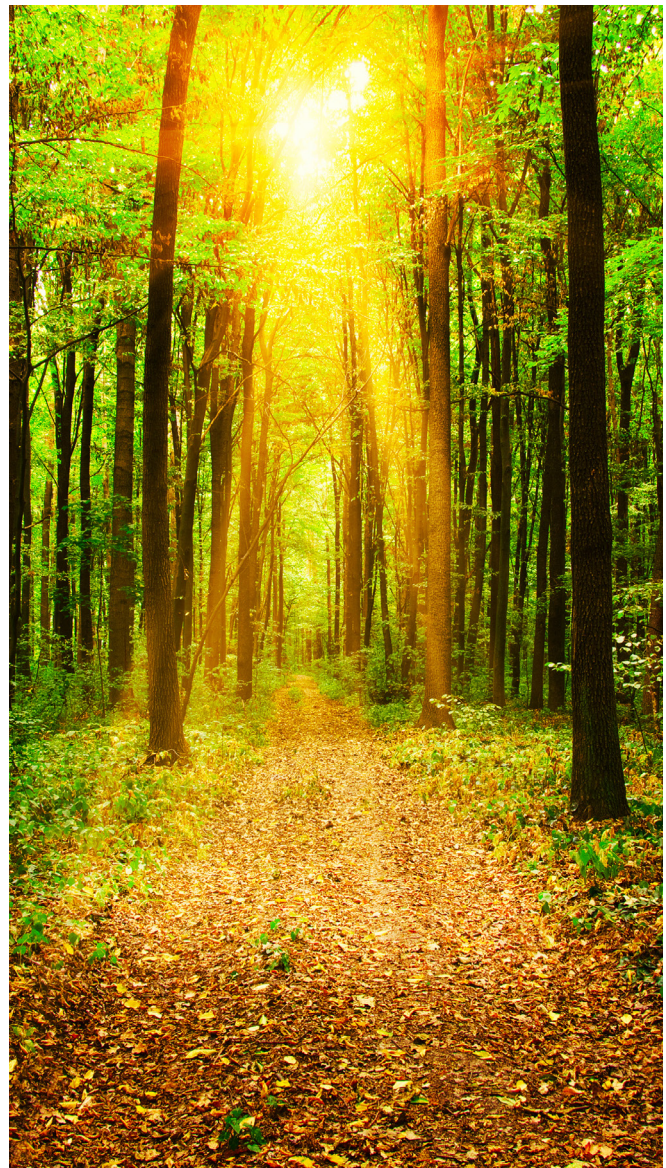
If and when society does crash and burn, you will be faced with people operating in the same mode as you, self preservation, the very act of which will drive even the good amongst us to practice repulsive methods in order to secure it. That is where a good set of compact binoculars or a monocular comes into the picture. These will be useful for long range observation for scoping out possible food sources or people out to do you harm.

It would be best to travel alone so that you can get to where you are going faster, avoid being responsible for another life or lives beside yours, and you won't be slowed down by the stragglers of the world. Of course, this scenario will be completely different if family is with you, but for all intents and purposes, it's best we focus on the hypothetical individual instead of a plurality. Since you will be duking it out alone, being unencumbered will allow you to camp out in a safe area for as long as you need to look at what's going on so that you can save yourself the headache of coming up with a plan on the spot when confronted with immediate danger, by planning ahead and avoiding places where others may congregate.

Many binoculars are cheap and compact enough to fit in a belt pouch or in the ole fanny pack, but don't let the size or pricing fool you, many nominally priced optics are capable of looking out to a mile or more, depending on your position, better than

The addition of spy glasses to your kit will give you a tactical edge to your survival causing others to woefully lament their oversight.

Out of all the items you could bring with you to the end of the world party, the thing 3 feet from your hinder and lodged between your ears will be the best weapon to have. Ever since I could remember, my dear old dad would often remind me that knowledge is power and mightier than any weapon man could ever hope to build. The mind, when fully armed with street and book smarts, coupled with a shrewd ability to quickly analyze situations, will make you a deadly force to contend with, even when the whole world isn't going down the toilet. To paraphrase Kipling, it's best to keep your head when all about you and others are losing theirs. So, until next time, dear reader, stay safe and let's be careful out there.





# WORLD CONFLICT: WHY PREPPING MATTERS MORE THAN EVER

It's no secret that the world is a tumultuous place. Conflicts abound in every corner of the globe, and it seems like they're only getting worse. If you're not prepared for something bad to happen, you could be in for a nasty surprise. In this article, we'll discuss why prepping is more important than ever before and how you can get started.

## THE CURRENT STATE OF THE WORLD

There's no denying that the world is in a bit of a state at the moment. From the ongoing conflicts in Syria and the Ukraine to the tensions between North Korea and the U.S., it seems like there's always something happening. And with more and more countries possessing nuclear weapons, it's only a matter of time before something major happens.

## LONG-EXISTING THREATS TO SURVIVAL

While the current state of the world may be cause for concern, it's important to remember that there have always been threats to our survival. Throughout history, there have been wars, famines, and natural disasters. And while we may have come a long way since then, we're still not immune to these things happening.

## NEW ASPECTS THAT THREATEN SURVIVAL

In addition to the traditional threats to survival, there are now a whole host of new things that we have to worry about, including:



## CLIMATE CHANGE

There are plenty of people that believe climate change is a conspiracy theory. There is no denying something is going on and the phenomenon is making natural disasters more common.

Water is becoming increasingly scarce in many parts of the world because of rising populations and drought. And as temperatures continue to rise, we can expect more extreme weather conditions.

It isn't only people that need water, industries rely on it for anything from growing crops and livestock to manufacturing. So, when water becomes scarce, it's going to have a major impact on the world economy.

## NEW TECHNOLOGY

A first for Russia, is using hypersonic technology in the war with Ukraine to attack targets. These missiles travel greater than Mach 5, and they can maneuver mid-flight. This makes it impossible to use defense measures because the missiles can change course.

China is developing the technology, too, and the breakthrough has left the U.S. scrambling to catch up. Currently, the USAF is testing their own hypersonic technology, but for now, the U.S. lags behind. In the meantime, this makes it hard to counter this threat. They are largely unstoppable until we can develop our own technology.

And, that's a nightmare when you consider that they can be armed with nukes and that the country can't defend against them.

## CIVIL UNREST

The cost of living is rising all over the world, and this is causing a lot of financial hardship for people. In many countries, the middle class is being squeezed out, and more and more people are falling into poverty.

This is leading to civil unrest in many countries as people take to the streets to protest. We've seen this happen in countries like Venezuela, Argentina, and Chile. And it's only a matter of time before it happens in other countries as well.

In addition, more and more people are being displaced by rising housing costs in the U.S. This causes the homeless ranks to continue to swell, providing easy targets for criminals. In the

Southwestern part of the country, hundreds of the homeless are succumbing to heat-related deaths each year.

And, as we've seen in the past, when people are desperate, they're willing to do anything to survive. This includes looting, rioting, and even murder.



## SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTIONS

We depend on a global supply chain for a lot of the things we take for granted, like food, clothing, and fuel. But this supply chain is vulnerable to disruptions.

For example, the current trade war between the U.S. and China is causing disruptions in the supply chain. And as tensions continue to rise, this could get worse.

In addition, the coronavirus outbreak has led to widespread supply chain disruptions. This is because China is a major manufacturing center for many goods. And with factories shut down and workers quarantined, there's been a significant decrease in production.

There is a move for reshoring, which is bringing manufacturing back to the U.S. to mitigate risk. However, offshoring and the reasons we did it in the first place isn't going away very soon, but it is something that is being looked at.

There are also examples of it happening within our own borders, like the recent baby formula shortage shows. It all started when the FDA shut down two of the country's largest manufacturers of baby formula, and this led to a shortage, especially for children that are on special diets.

We could see widespread shortages of food and other essentials. And, if fuel becomes scarce, we could see a return to the days of rationing.

These are just a few examples of how disruptions in the supply chain can lead to major problems. And as our world becomes more interconnected, we're only going to become more vulnerable to these types of disruptions.

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

Artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and robotics are just a few of the technologies that are emerging and could have a major impact on the world. While these technologies have the potential to do great things, they also pose a threat to our survival.

For example, artificial intelligence could be used to create autonomous weapons that can select and engage targets without human input. This could lead to a major increase in the number of casualties in future conflicts.

Quantum computers could be used to hack into systems and disrupt critical infrastructure. Robotics could be used to create swarms of small, unmanned vehicles that can overwhelm an enemy.

And then there's the threat of cyberattacks, which could potentially take down our entire infrastructure.



## CYBERATTACKS

We've all heard of hacking, but now there are entire armies of hackers that can bring down entire computer networks. Russia has been accused of launching cyberattacks against the US and other Western countries.

Not only can these attacks take out power grids and critical infrastructure, but they can also steal sensitive information. In the wrong hands, this could be used to blackmail or extort people, too.

## JOB LOSSES

The rise of technology is leading to job losses in many industries. For example, self-driving cars and delivery drones are going to put a lot of truck drivers out of work. And as robots become more advanced, they will take over many jobs that are currently done by humans.

This is going to lead to a lot of financial hardship for people who lose their jobs. Fortunately, if you are prepared, it's easy to ride job shortages until you find another job. But, if you're not prepared, it can lead to a downward spiral that's hard to come back from.



## SO, WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN FOR PREPPERS?

A huge disaster may happen, but there is more of a chance of small disasters that will disrupt our lives on a daily basis.

We need to be prepared for civil unrest, supply chain disruptions, and job losses. And we need to be prepared to ride out these disruptions until things return to normal.

Prepping matters more than ever because the world is becoming more and more unstable. And, as the saying goes, "The best time to start prepping was yesterday. The second best time is today."

## WHAT IS PREPPING?

If you are not familiar with the term prepping, it is short for “preparedness.” Prepping is the act of preparing for a disaster. This can include stocking up on food and supplies, learning survival skills, and creating a plan to evacuate or shelter in place.



## WHY PREPPING MATTERS

Prepping matters because it gives you the ability to ride out a disaster. Whether it's a natural disaster, like a hurricane or earthquake, or a man-made disaster, like a financial collapse or civil unrest, prepping can help you weather the storm.

Prepping is also important because it helps to build resilience. Resilience is the ability to bounce back from adversity. And, as we've seen, the world is becoming more and more unstable. So, it's important to have the ability to bounce back from a disaster.

It's also a lot of fun and a learning experience, as well. Prepping is a great way to learn new skills and knowledge. And, it's a great way to bond with family and friends.

So, if you're not already prepping, now is the time to start. Prepping could very well be the difference between weathering a disaster or becoming a victim of one.



## HOW TO GET STARTED WITH PREPPING

The best way to get started with prepping is to start small and let it become your lifestyle. Here's a good way to start building a solid plan:

- Start with a 72-hour kit: This is a small, portable kit that contains enough food, water, and supplies to last you for 72 hours.
- Create a plan: You need to know what you're going to do in the event of a disaster. Do you have an evacuation route planned? Do you have a place to shelter in place? Do you know how to contact your family and friends in the event of an emergency?
- Learn core skills and practice using your gear: There are a few basic skills that every prepper should know. These include first aid, emergency cooking, and water purification.
- Start building your food storage: A good rule of thumb is to have at least a three-month supply of non-perishable food on hand. It also helps to develop foraging skills since there is probably a lot of vegetation as close as your front yard that you could survive on in a pinch.
- Ready your home for 2-3 weeks of self-reliance: This includes things like stocking up on supplies, making sure your home is well-insulated and having a backup plan for heat and power.
- Prepare for a crisis that could happen away from your residence: Everyday carry and get home bags will help you if you find yourself away from home when a disaster strikes.
- Share and recruit like-minded individuals: Do this while continuing to learn and build on your basic survival knowledge. Do not share that you have a food stash and weapon storage with anyone that will listen, though. You've seen that movie, right? It doesn't end well if you haven't.



## WHAT TO DO IN A CRISIS SITUATION

The first thing you need to do in a crisis situation is to remain calm. How calm you stay will also help everyone around you stay calm and determine how successful you are in dealing with the crisis. This can be difficult, but it's important to remember that panicking will not help the situation.

Once you have remained calm, you need to assess the situation and determine what the best course of action is. If there is an immediate threat, like a fire or flood, you will need to take action to ensure your safety. If there is not an immediate threat, you will need to determine whether you should shelter in place or evacuate.

If you decide to shelter in place, you will need to have a plan for doing so. This includes things like having supplies on hand and knowing how to secure your home.

If you decide to evacuate, you will need to have a plan for doing so. This includes things like having a

designated meeting place, knowing your route, and having a plan for where you will go.

No matter what course of action you take, it's important to have a plan and be prepared. Prepping can help you do this.

## THE BOTTOM LINE

As you can see, there are a lot of things that threaten our survival. And while we may not be able to control everything, we can control how prepared we are for whatever comes our way. So if you're not already prepping for the future, now is the time to start.

Remember, prepping is a journey, not a destination. So, keep learning and growing. Also, be sure to check out our website for more tips and information. And as always, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We're here to help!





# Top 10 Evacuation Must-Haves for a Fire or Flood

Everyone is aware that wildfires and storms can cause sudden evacuations, but most people don't think it will actually happen to them. Unfortunately, it only takes one incident to turn your entire life upside down. Even worse, as survivalists, a fire or flood could ruin your bug out bag and other supplies.

So, what should you do if a fire or flood are headed your way? The answer will vary a bit depending on how much notice you get of a mandatory evacuation order. One very important piece of the puzzle is to make sure you follow the evacuation order. Staying put doesn't make you tougher than your neighbors, and it might even kill you.

Therefore, if you only have time to grab 10 items, make sure they're from the following list. We'll also discuss alternatives and extra items for when you've got a little more time to get everything together.

## 10 Evacuation Must-Haves

There are literally hundreds of things that we could list here, but since we have to stick to the top 10, be prepared to make some difficult choices. People have had to leave their homes from a spreading wildfire in less than 10 minutes before, so this will give you a

**16** very good exercise to learn from.

### 1. Video of Your Home for Insurance Purposes

This is something that should be taken before a fire or flood knocks at your door. Go through your entire home with a video camera or your smartphone and document everything. It's the only way to be sure you won't forget something when it's time to write your claim.

It'll also give you undeniable proof of some of the more expensive items you own. In fact, the video you take could make the difference between getting a fair settlement and having to fight with your insurer. Remember: your video should be retaken at least once a year, just in case.

### 2. Get a Map of the Evacuation Routes

Again, you'll have to procure this in advance and be prepared to bring it with you. Once you're on the road, you're going to be dealing with scared, impatient people, which could make everything much harder.

The beauty of this particular item is that you'll be able to look at the map and determine what way to go. For instance, let's say there are two evacuation routes from your home. If one is less busy, you're definitely going to want to take that route. But even

if you get stuck among the hordes of evacuating people, you can still be sure that you're following the correct path by checking your map.



### 3. Alternative Plans to Your Plans

Sometimes, no matter how well we plan, everything will still go wrong. Imagine for a second that the path you've planned to follow becomes flooded itself. Your best bet is to follow your backup plan at this point. And if you're asking yourself "what backup plan?", then it's time to revisit your entire evacuation scenario.

Due to the extremely unpredictable nature of floods and wildfires, there's really no way to know in advance what route will lead you to safety. By having at least two plans in mind, however, you can greatly increase your odds of getting out of the area without getting injured.

It may seem odd to you that we're already on item number three and haven't saved any of your personal belongings yet. The reason is simple: stuff can be replaced, but you and your family can't be.

### 4. Identification and Important Papers

When you're forced to leave your home quickly, you definitely want to get your identification and other important papers. Your identification will probably be in your wallet or purse, so be sure to grab it. As to your other important papers, it would be wise to keep them all in one folder or envelope. That way, you can grab them on the run.

Once you finally get to where you're going and can take a breath, you'll be surprised by just how important following this step is. You'll be bogged down with lots of necessary details, but at least you'll have your insurance policy with you and can start a claim. If anyone was injured during the evacuation, you'll also be able to easily use your health insurance card to obtain help.

### 5. Smartphones are a Necessity

Just a few years ago, it would have been optional to bring your cellphone. But now, when there really aren't any phone booths left in most of the country, you're going to want to bring your smartphone and a charger.

You can even use your phone as a way to digitally backup all your important papers, identification, and both routes out of town. After all, if worst comes to worst, you could rely on your smartphone to provide proof that you have insurance, etc.

To make sure you're truly ready to deal with an evacuation, get your smartphone right now and put your property insurance provider's number in it. After you reach safety and have attended to any injuries, this will be the first call you should make.

Don't let too much time pass, or else you're going to have to wait until dozens or even hundreds of other houses are looked at by an adjuster before they reach yours. Delays of this nature will back up your settlement, and it's already going to take a lot of patience on your part to get there. Do everything you can to make the process faster and smoother.

### 6. Medication and Medical Supplies



This one should be a no-brainer, but the reality is that you can't rely on yourself to remember your medication during an emergency. Therefore, you must put some of your medication into a bag that you can grab on the go. Getting new meds can be quite a hassle, unless you want to pay for them out of pocket. It will always be much, much easier to simply take your critical medication with you.

You should also think about what basic medical supplies you'll need. Some bandages, ibuprofen, and burn cream should serve as the minimum amount you need to take with you. If you have more room in your go bag, be sure to add in items via their order of importance. For example, if you experience a wildfire in your area, everyone who is with you will be more comfortable with a mask on, as it will filter out some of the bad particulates.

## 7. A Few Irreplaceable Items

Whether you're sentimental or not, the odds are high that someone in your family is. Put them in charge of gathering a few items that are irreplaceable. Examples include photos that aren't digitally backed up, a valuable collectible, your child's favorite stuffed animal, and family heirlooms. If you have to gather the items – rather than grabbing a bag they're already in – then this item should fall to number 10 on your list.

After all, treasured items are meaningless if you allow them to take too much time to gather. Again, the idea is to evacuate your home safely, even if you have to leave some important items behind. By taking the time to put most of these items in a to-go bag today, you can avoid the pain and hassle of not being able to take your critical keepsakes with you.

## 8. Food and Water

As a survivalist, you probably have a pretty good supply of food and water stocked up for any type of emergency. Now is the time to use some of it. Be sure to take at least enough food and water for every member of your family to use for three days.

Anything extra is a nice bonus, but it won't be worth sticking around to get it. Wherever you're evacuating to should have everything you'll need, so

of the first three days. After this point, it may even feel good to return to a grocery store or restaurant, as it will take your mind off of the fire or flood for a little while.

## 9. Keys, Cash, and Credit Cards

Without these items, how do you expect to take care of your needs? You'll need your keys to ensure you can enter your home again – as long as it hasn't burned to the ground, that is. As far as making sure you have cash and credit cards go, how else will you book into a hotel room, visit the corner store for necessities, or go out to eat?

You also may need to use cash or a credit card to get gas while evacuating. Expect long lines of traffic and not a lot of movement. This will be frustrating enough on its own, so don't make it even worse by not being able to refill your tank.

## 10. Your Pets and Their Needs



If you believe that your pets are family, then you're not going to want to leave them behind. But taking pets with you can cause some difficulties, too. Therefore, make sure you have everything they'll need to feel safe. Pack a food and water dish, at least three days of food and water, their collar and leash, and a favorite toy.

Some people think that evacuating with a pet is too difficult to manage. Just think of the photos from Ukraine and all the pets that managed to evacuate with their humans during a war, and you should gain some perspective. And if nothing else, your

pet will be there for your family and can provide real comfort to a scared child. This will leave you free to take care of the truly important matters.

## Alternatives/Extra Items

Now that you know what items to prioritize, let's look at a few alternatives ideas/extra items to ensure you have what you need. As a reminder, none of these items should be included on your first tier of must-haves, which means you will only get these items if you have extra time.

### 1. Clothes, Blankets, etc.

Your existing clothing, blankets, and more will provide you with the ability to change before you go shopping. This will be extremely helpful, and will provide your family with some sense of normality. Packing at least one change of clothes per person is definitely a good idea, as is getting a blanket or sleeping bag for each person.

Of course, getting clothes and blankets together isn't nearly as important as grabbing your identification and important papers, nor will it help you as much as gathering your map of the evacuation route. But if there's time, you're going to want to grab as much as you can.

### 2. Hygiene Supplies

Leaving your hygiene supplies behind could turn into a bigger nightmare than not bringing extra clothing. You don't want to pack anything that's super big or heavy, but having basics such as wet wipes, extra underwear, toothbrushes, pads or tampons, and diapers (if needed) will go a long way toward allowing each member of your family to retain their sense of normality.

### 3. Important Survival Items

This category will include many things that are in your bug out bag already. You're going to want to pack the following:

- Flashlight
- Batteries
- Multi-Purpose Tool
- Reflective Vests

- Tape
- Water Purification Tablets
- Utensils
- Hand-Crank or Battery-Powered Radio

You should recognize everything on this list, and you probably already have all of it bagged up already. An evacuation often requires other items instead, but if you've got the room in your car for your bug out bag too, it couldn't hurt to take these essentials.

### 4. Electronics

You've already got your smartphone, but it could be very helpful if you also take your laptop, tablet, external harddrive, backup disks, etc. A few of these items will give you an alternate form of communication and will also make it easier to look things up online.

## Stay Updated About Emergencies

There are numerous ways you can make sure you stay updated about emergencies, including local news stations or local news alerts. Another way to stay current is to text your zip code to 888777. This will connect you with Nixle, which provides info regarding any severe weather, bad traffic, missing persons, criminal activity, and local events.

You can also listen to your hand-crank or battery-operated radio throughout the entire situation to find out when it's safe to return to your home.

## Final Thoughts

Whether you're forced to evacuate without much notice or you receive a full day to leave, you must have your wits about you if you wish to remember critical items. One way to make sure most of your critical items don't get forgotten is by pre-packing them into a to-go bag. This is definitely a wise decision if you live in an area that has frequent wildfires or floods.

What if you live in an area that's never had major problems with fires or flooding before, though? It may be a little silly to keep important stuff packed

in a specific bag that you'll probably never, ever have to grab. Although we could say to pack that bag anyway, we're going to be more realistic by telling you to at least know where your vital supplies are. That way, being unprepared won't have to mean leaving everything behind.

Either way, pay attention when your local news starts talking about wildfires, floods, or any type of emergency situation. The best way to survive is by being self-reliant and not waiting for a police officer to knock on your door about an evacuation.

Always remember that being prepared and making a quick decision to move can put you ahead of most people. This could allow you to drive on the evacuation route before it's completely clogged with people, which also means you'll have a much better chance of finding a nearby hotel room. By doing what should come naturally to survivalists, you'll find yourself in a much better situation than others who don't make a move until it's almost too late.



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