



MEMBERS UPDATE

February 2023



Prepping For Pets

Safety Gear To Buy (and Avoid)

What Type Of Dog Should You Get?

How To Be A "First Responder" When Everyone Else Is Losing It

NEXT ISSUE: Escape: On Foot Or By Car

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CONTENT



02

How To Be A “First Responder” When Everyone Else Is Losing It

Learning how to help someone in a classroom environment is quite different from saving someone’s life. When you step up like this, though, you’re going to be playing the hero, the one who saves the day.



08

Prepping For Pets

When the SHTF, you’d better be ready to move quickly. This includes your family, of course, which also means your pets. But how do you prepare for your furry companions? Make sure you include them in your emergency bug out plans.



14

Safety Gear To Buy (and Avoid)

Safety can mean the difference between puncturing your foot on a screw or merely finding the screw stuck to the bottom of your shoe. We’re going to take a look at some of the best safety gear available to help ensure you make it when the SHTF. Plus, a few items that you should stay far, far away from.



20

What Type Of Dog Should You Get?

Are you still in the market for a dog? There are three different qualities that most survivalists are looking for, including protection, companionship, and loyalty. Of course, you’re going to have to put one of your wish-list items ahead of the others.

Next Issue: Escape: On Foot Or By Car

HOW TO BE A "FIRST RESPONDER" WHEN EVERYONE ELSE IS LOSING IT



No matter what situation you may catastrophize about, there is always going to be a need for emergency first responders. We usually categorize these individuals as EMTs, firefighters, paramedics, or police officers. However, because you're going to have the first crack at helping people, you could easily fit into the role of a first responder.

Learning how to help someone in a classroom environment is quite different from saving someone's life. When you step up like this, though, you're going to be playing the hero. And haven't you always wanted to be the one who saves the day?

Tips For Being An Effective First Responder

The first thing you'll need to do is calm yourself down. After all, you can't assist someone who has been shot or is having a medical emergency unless you keep your head on straight. Once you've gotten yourself into a position where you can think through the steps, you'll be ready to act as a first responder.

Keep in mind that first responders are typically trained to provide help. You may not have all the special training that they do, but if one isn't around yet, you can learn to be a first responder for the first responders.

You could also gain some much-needed experience by completing a course and receiving a first responder certificate. Doing this doesn't mean that you have to work as a first responder. Instead, it gives you the critical information necessary to help several people.



WHAT ROLE DOES A FIRST RESPONDER PLAY?

Whether you're an actual first responder or just need to fill in as one, you're going to have critical responsibilities such as:

- Assess the patient
- Provide initial assistance with limited equipment
- Manage any wounds, if needed
- Provide CPR, if needed
- Treat shock, if needed
- Contact other responders

Essentially, your role is to stabilize people as much as possible before an ambulance arrives.

TREATING SOMEONE WITH INJURIES

Each state has different levels/names for their emergency first responders. For instance, in New York, the levels of a first responder are:

- Certified First Responder
- EMT-Basic
- AEMT
- AEMT-Paramedic

As you can see, being a first responder is the initial step toward receiving medical care. Keep this in mind and don't overextend yourself. Provide the help you can, but don't try to do more than you're able to. Taking a risk by attempting to treat someone that you don't have the skills to help could end in their death. And, as everyone in America is well aware, this could easily result in a lawsuit from their family.

TREATING A GUNSHOT WOUND

Let's imagine that you're at a big event and someone starts shooting. People are running and yelling everywhere. It's mass chaos, but you notice a gunshot victim near you. How are you going to keep them alive?

First, offer the victim some calming words, including your name and that you're there to help. Then you can launch right into saving the person's life.



STOP THE BLEEDING

When someone is bleeding all over the place, it may become much more difficult to figure out exactly what is happening. However, your job as a first responder is to stop their bleeding. Figure out where the wound is and then do the following:



- **Put strong pressure on the wound** - You have to put strong pressure on any bullet holes that are bleeding. If the person is bleeding a lot, you may even have to get your knee into it. Press it down hard over their wound to get their bleeding under control.
- **Dressing** - Use whatever you happen to have on hand to dress the wound. If you happen to have gauze, that's fantastic. If not, use a t-shirt, towels, etc.
- **Tourniquet** - This trick can really help, as long as you know how to tie a tourniquet successfully. Improvising with something that is meant to act as a tourniquet can turn bad if you don't tie it tight enough. Unless the tourniquet is uncomfortable to the point of causing pain, it's probably not good enough.

Avoid giving the victim anything to drink or eat if you're in a situation where a hospital can eventually help.

DO NOT ELEVATE THEIR LEGS

Elevating a gun victim's legs can make them bleed out more quickly, especially if they have a chest or abdominal wound. It could also give them difficulty breathing.

Instead, leave them lying there. If they're unconscious, move them into the recovery position (on their side with their top leg bent to make a right angle). If they're conscious, have them lie down or sit up, depending on what feels comfortable. Just remember: don't elevate their legs.

TREATING A VARIETY OF WOUNDS

Assess their situation, then begin offering specialized assistance depending on where they were shot.

CHEST INJURY

If they've been shot in the chest, it's critical that you seal the wound. The thing that's different, though, is that you'll need to use some type of plastic to do it. This will prevent them from developing a

collapsed lung. However, if their shortness of breath becomes more severe, you'll need to remove the seal.

LIMB INJURY

Unless it's unavoidable, do NOT move any limb that has been shot. When someone is shot in one of their limbs, it can break bones, cause nerve damage, and/or cause a blood vessel injury. Your main job when someone has been hit in a limb is to provide strong pressure on the wound.

ABDOMINAL INJURY

Most people who are shot in their abdomen are going to need emergency surgery. Put a lot of pressure on their wound. Be aware that the risk of infection is high, especially if the intestines or stomach are punctured.

While you're treating them, remain alert for any rapid swelling of their abdomen. Any gunshot wound to this general area can cause:

- Organ damage
- Severe bleeding
- Abdominal wall damage

Getting hit in the abdomen is excruciatingly painful. Keep this in mind as you attend to their injury.

NECK INJURY

Paralysis can be the end result of getting shot in the neck from behind. If you're shot in the front of the neck instead, you may suffer from damage to your carotid artery. In turn, your brain may not be able to get enough blood.

The best thing you can do for a victim with a neck injury is to make sure the victim lies still. If their wound is on the front of their neck, apply a lot of pressure and hope that real emergency professionals will get to the victim soon.

HOW DOES EACH TYPE OF BULLET AFFECT THE VICTIM?



Bullets are hard to work with because you never know if it has bounced around inside the body or not. This will likely cause a lot more damage than the gunshot wound itself indicates. Try to figure out the following:

- Location of their injury
- Size of the bullet
- Speed of the bullet

All three things will play a role in determining how injured the person actually is. Speed will tear them apart more than size or location. In other words, if they're hit with a rifle, they're probably going to have more severe injuries than if they suffered from a pistol wound.

Additionally, there is always the chance that the bullet is degrading inside their body. Unless they have emergency surgery to find and remove all the pieces, the victim will most likely end up dying.

PLATINUM 10 MINUTES

While everyone else is running around or crying, you must take advantage of the critical first 10 minutes after they've been shot.

First, be aware that the number one cause of death from gunshot wounds is bleeding out. Secondly, you've probably got maybe five minutes to get their bleeding under control. Failure to do so will likely result in worse complications or even death.

The other high risk factors during the first 10 minutes include a collapsed lung and/or airway obstruction. Always keep this in mind when you start treating someone.

TREATING A KNIFE WOUND



This time, let's assume you're in a crowded store when a knife attack happens. The aggressor has slashed at several people, which has left multiple people injured. Fortunately, the aggressor has also run off, so you're able to immediately begin offering assistance to those who are injured.

REMOVE CLOTHING FROM AROUND THE AREA

You should be able to do this without much difficulty as you'll probably have scissors with you. At least, you will as long as you've treated the situation like it could lead to the SHTF.

WASH YOUR HANDS OR PUT ON GLOVES

Yes, this will take an extra 20 to 30 seconds, and yes, it's absolutely critical. Not only will this prevent you from contaminating their wound, but it could also help prevent you from catching any bloodborne pathogens.

STOP THE BLEEDING

If they're still standing, have them sit or lie down. This will make things a lot easier if they end up fainting from shock. Examine their wound to see if there's anything stuck in it. If there is and it's not stuck in a major artery, go ahead and remove it. Apply pressure to their wound to prevent them from bleeding out.

It's important to know how quickly the human body can go into shock and even die due to loss of blood. Your body has about 10-12 pints of blood. If you lose even 2 pints, you're likely to go into shock. Losing 5-6 pints will cause death. The scary part is that some wounds can cause you to die in as little as 20 seconds.

WHAT TYPE OF BLEEDING IS IT?

There are three main types of bleeding. Determining what type you're dealing with will make a huge difference.

- Capillary bleeding - Blood comes out slowly and will eventually stop on its own.
- Venous bleeding - Blood comes oozing out of the wound and is a darker color.
- Arterial bleeding - Bright red blood that will spurt out.

Of these types, capillary bleeding is the one you'll hope to face. However, you can still save their life with venous bleeding, and it's technically possible to save them when they've got arterial bleeding. Don't blame yourself if the victim dies from arterial or venous bleeding, though. Do whatever you can to help, then let it go.

APPLY PRESSURE

You'll want to apply firm pressure to the wound. In a case that involves arterial bleeding, seek out and apply pressure to whichever major artery leads to the wound.

For instance, let's say that the knife wound is in their thigh, and is spurting everywhere. Use both of your hands to apply pressure to their femoral artery. You're going to need to keep putting pressure on for at least 10 to 15 minutes.

TO REMOVE OR NOT REMOVE THE KNIFE



What should you do if the knife is still inside their wound? It's simple: in a regular world scenario, you will do absolutely NOTHING with the knife. Leave it in place and let emergency professionals deal with it.

However, if there's no help to be found because the SHTF, you might need to remove the knife. Before you do, be sure you've got the tools you need to address their wound, which will probably begin to gush the second you remove the knife.

DECIDING WHETHER TO CLOSE THE WOUND

This one is hard because there are so many things that could go wrong. That is the reason we always advocate leaving the knife in and not closing the wound if there is anyone who can help you.

The safest way to deal with a knife wound is to leave it open. After the SHTF, however, you'd better be prepared to make a decision.

CLOSE THE WOUND IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES

- They've had the wound for less than six hours
- The wound is large and refuses to stop bleeding
- The wound is over a moving part of the body or a joint
- The wound has penetrated their entire skin
- The wound is gaping open and will not close without your assistance

LEAVE THE WOUND OPEN IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES

- The wound has been open for more than six hours
- The wound has become infected
- The edges of their wound are too far apart and won't close without tearing the skin
- The wound has dead tissue in it (discolored tissue that doesn't bleed)

As a special note, never seal a wound that's been caused by an animal or human bite.

DEALING WITH SHOCK

What should you do if the person is going into shock? Keep them warm and try to counter whatever odd thoughts the person is having at the time. Remember: when shock happens, that means that their heart, brain, and tissues are not getting enough oxygen.

How can you be sure that the person's mental state has been caused by shock? Check them for the following symptoms.

- Cold, pale, and clammy
- Rapid pulse
- Dizzy and weak
- Blue tinge to their lips
- Gray-blue skin color
- Rapid, shallow breathing
- Thirst
- Nausea and vomiting

- Could become restless or even aggressive
- Gaspings/yawning for air
- Lose consciousness and become unresponsive

DEALING WITH CATASTROPHIC BLEEDING

You've done everything you're supposed to, but their bleeding still won't stop. This typically means that you're dealing with catastrophic bleeding.

When this type of scenario comes up, you're going to need to put your all into getting the wound to stop bleeding. Not to rush you or anything, but you also only have mere moments to do so. The reason for the catastrophic bleeding is usually that the aggressor has damaged an artery.

If you must use a tourniquet, be certain that it's at least 4cm wide. Otherwise, it could cause localized damage to their nerves. Place the tourniquet at least 5cm above the wound or joint. Whatever you do, NEVER put a tourniquet over a joint.

Once the tourniquet is on, do NOT remove it. Ideally, the only person who should remove a tourniquet is a medical professional.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Acting as a first responder is noble. Just make sure that you're out of the line of fire before you act. It won't do anyone any good if you get yourself shot before you can save anyone else, so wait until it's clear that you can take action without getting killed.

Always make sure that the gunshot or knife victim remains sitting or lying down. This position is best for them for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that it'll prevent them from falling down if they faint. Also, if you must apply a makeshift tourniquet, be sure it is extremely tight.

Give it your all, especially during the first 10 minutes. Remember: just because a person has a gunshot or knife wound doesn't mean they're not going to make it. In fact, the odds of surviving a single gunshot wound are 78%. All they'll need is a brave individual like yourself to step up and stop the bleeding.



Prepping For Pets

When the SHTF, you'd better be ready to move quickly. This includes your family, of course, which also means your pets. But how do you prepare for your furry companions? It's not like they can understand what you're doing and help out. This puts them almost completely at your mercy, so whatever you do, make sure you include them in your emergency bug out plans.

Survivalism For Pets

Did you know that Hurricane Katrina led to more than 600,000 animals being stranded or abandoned? It's clear that some of these people did not put in the work to keep their pet safe. Fortunately, you're going to learn everything you need to ensure your pets can stay by your side.

1. Stockpile Pet Food

Most disaster recommendations will tell you that you must have at least three days worth of food. But honestly, a 30-day supply is going to have a much bigger impact and will give you and your pet the best chance of surviving.

- Canned food is always the easiest.
- Repackage kibble into sealed Mylar bags.
- Next, take your Mylar bags and place them in a food-grade 5-gallon bucket, which will protect them.

2. Stockpile Water

Without water, your animal companion is going to get into a terrible situation very quickly. Be sure to put as much emphasis on stockpiling their water as you do your own.

- Rotate bottled water to keep the bottles from leaking.
- Alternatively, keep the water in a storage barrel that won't leak or decompose.
- Pets need about 1 oz of water per lb of body weight. This amount will provide them with their daily water needs.

3. Deal With Pet Waste

No matter what happens or where you and your dog ride out the initial wave of craziness, you'll still need

to pick up their waste. Otherwise, it could become a health hazard for you. Be sure you've stocked up on the following items:

- Extra trash bags to pick up dog waste
- Newspapers (it can be shredded to make litter or become a bathroom for a dog sheltering in place)
- Cat litter

4. Make A Pet First Aid Kit

Next, you'll want to make a first aid kit for your pets. Many common items that are also in your first aid kit will need to be available for your companion animals, including bandages and antiseptic cream. However, there are a few special items you'll need to add that are just for your pets.

- Flea and tick control items
- Tick tweezers
- Flea comb
- No-chew bandage
- Anti-worm meds

5. Make Your Pet A Bug Out Bag



You have two choices: you can either purchase a premade bug out kit, such as the one pictured above or you can put a bag together yourself. Either way, your pet's needs must be carefully considered.

To build your own pet bug out bag, you must first decide if you'll be carrying it or if you'll be getting a tiny bag that your pet can wear for themselves. Ensure that you have each of the following:

- Water
- Sealed food
- Collapsible water and food bowls
- Collar and leash
- Water purification tablets
- Spare tags
- Emergency light stick
- Evacuation documents (more to come on this topic soon)
- Their favorite toy
- Any medication they may need

6. Create Your Evacuation Plan

Evacuating with a pet can be difficult, but it's gotten a lot easier since Hurricane Matthew. There are several steps you can take to offer your pet more protection.

- **Make Your Own Plan** - Find places where you can take shelter; that should be outside the evacuation zone. Whether you plan to go to a friend's house or to your cabin in the woods, be certain that your entire family knows how to get there.
- **Use Pet-Friendly Lodging** - Create a list of pet friendly hotels along your planned evacuation route. You never know when you'll have to stop unexpectedly, so prepare now!
- **List Pet Shelters** - If worse comes to worst, you could always drop your pet off at a designated pet shelter. Don't forget that vet clinics and boarding facilities may offer to give your pet shelter.
- **Ask Your Local Emergency Management Office** - Are there any emergency shelters in your area that accept humans and their pets?

- **Get Your Pet Carriers Ready** - When an emergency situation is forecast, you should get out your pet carrier. Leave the door on your carrier open, and be sure to include your personal information on the side of the carrier. Additionally, make sure you've got a leash or harness ready.
- **Think About Transportation Obstacles** - You must have at least two to three different plans for getting out of town. This includes an evacuation bus, which means you definitely need to have a pet carrier handy.
- **Grab a Pet Alert Sticker** - What happens if you absolutely can't take your pet with you? Your best bet is to put a Pet Alert sticker in your window. That way, if the disaster hits your home, any rescuers will be notified that you have a pet in the home.

7. Put Together Your Pet's Evacuation Documents

Don't just assume that you can evacuate to a shelter with your pet. Even shelters that are pet friendly have strict rules that your pet must follow.

Unfortunately, if you can't show proof that they're up-to-date with their vaccines, you may be forced to euthanize them. This happened to many pet owners during Hurricane Katrina, so take steps now to make sure it doesn't happen to you.

To keep the documents as safe as possible, purchase a waterproof binder to keep them in. You'll need everything listed below.

- Photo of your pet
- Premade flyers to hand out if they get lost
- Microchip number
- Vaccination history
- Owner contact info
- Backup contact info
- Handout that includes boarding instructions
- Pertinent medical history

Can You Train Your Pets For An Emergency?

Most people would probably guess that no, you can't train an animal to deal with an emergency situation. However, most people would be wrong. You can train pets to know what to do in certain scenarios, which would be helpful if the SHTF.

Much of the following list applies to dogs only.

- **Kennel Training** - In case they have to be boarded for a long time.
- **Barking Control** - Ensure your dog knows when it's not okay to bark.
- **Carrier Training** - Train your dog to stay in their carrier for an extended period of time.
- **Stay** - This one is hugely important as you want to be certain your dog will listen to you, regardless of what's going on around you.
- **Desensitization** - Can your dog handle loud noises, a big crowd, gunshots, fire, smoke, etc.? Desensitizing them to these things will give you much more control after the SHTF.
- **Attack Command** - Sometimes, no matter how much you try to work with someone, there is simply no getting through to them. When this happens, you may have to command your dog to attack them. Therefore, you'd better start working on this command now so that your dog recognizes it when it's vital.

What we don't suggest you do is get your dog all riled up on a regular basis. In other words, the humans in your house can practice what to do, but your dog or other pet shouldn't have to pretend with you every single time you run a drill. Otherwise, unless they've been specially trained since birth, they're likely to develop several issues, including anxiety.



What Should I Do Right Away?

Aside from pulling together the supplies that your animal will need, you'll also want to take advantage of the time you have by taking care of several other items.

For instance, you're going to need to decide on someone who can serve as a temporary caregiver if you're unable to reach your pets. Think this over very carefully as you need to make absolutely certain that whoever you select takes your pet's health and wellness seriously.

You'll also want to consider what places near you that are considered a safe haven for your pet. Will your vet's office be sheltering pets, for example?

Does your pet wear their nametag? If so, you're all set. If not, you might want to teach them how to wear one now, instead of waiting until it really matters.

Planning For Geographic Considerations

Some people live in areas where natural disasters happen with more frequency. If you're likely to be hit at some point with an earthquake, tornado, flood, or other disruption, this is something you'll need to take into consideration. Proper prepping in these areas means remaining alert to the danger.

Figure out what rooms in your house provide the safest haven. Don't forget to clear them of clutter and debris so that they can be instantly turned into shelter. If possible, you'll also want to pick an easily-cleaned room for your safe haven. We suggest your basement, bathroom, or utility room.

As you know, having access to clean, safe water is vital. Aside from whatever water supplies you already have on hand, fill up your sinks and bathtub before your electricity goes out. This will extend how long you and your pet can make it before help arrives.

If it floods, you're going to want to reach the highest ground possible. Inside your house, this will probably be the attic. Alternatively, pick a spot that has cupboards so your pet can hide in one of them.

What About Other Animals?

We've spoken about dogs and cats the most because they're the most popular. However, we know that some of you have reptiles, birds, small animals, or horses. In this section, we'll take a look at each of these four categories.



Whether you've got a gerbil, hamster, guinea pig, mouse, etc., you're going to want to be able to transport them inside a secure, appropriately-sized container. Include their food bowl, some water, and bedding materials to ensure they stay as comfortable as possible.

Be sure to keep several items on hand:

- Extra water bottle
- Salt lick
- Tube/hidebox
- A week's worth of bedding



Birds

There are many guidelines you'll need to follow if you're planning to evacuate with a bird. Start thinking them through now so that you'll be prepared to take action, if necessary.

- Always transport a bird in a carrier or secure travel cage.
- If the weather is hot, carry a spray bottle and occasionally remoisten their wings.
- If the weather is cold, put a blanket over their cage. This can also help keep them calmer once you reach shelter.
- Keep your bird's leg band on for easy identification.
- Have at least one recent photo.
- Place the carrier in the quietest place possible.
- If the carrier doesn't come with a perch, line it up with paper towels and be ready to change these frequently.
- Using a timed feeder can take a lot of stress off of you.
- Other items to keep on hand include a cage liner and a heavy towel, catch net, sheet or blanket to cover their cage.



Reptiles

Lizards can be transported the same way as birds. Meanwhile, a snake can be taken from point A to point B inside a pillowcase. You must have a secure housing for your snake once you reach point B, though.

Bring a large, sturdy bowl to let your reptile soak in. You'll also want to bring a heating pad or hot water bottle.



Horses

Owning a horse can be very special, but it's also going to make things extremely difficult if you need to evacuate. Horses are most often threatened by wildfires, although there are any number of emergencies that present a danger.

- Keep their stable and pasture clean. Remove all flammable items from their general area.
- Put a no-smoking policy in place for your barn.
- Don't allow seemingly-harmless items such as heaters, box fans, or even power tools to stay on unless you can monitor them.

- Your horse should be used to wearing a halter. Practice with them and their halter on a regular basis to ensure they can enter their trailer on command.
- Speaking of your trailer, take the time to inspect it regularly. Unless it's the appropriate size and weight for your horse, it could cause even more trouble when you're trying to quickly get out of town.
- Making sure your horse is well-socialized can make all the difference in the world. You'll also want to allow other humans to handle them. This will get them used to it, and it won't seem so strange if someone else tries to load them into their trailer.
- Set up a phone tree with other local horse owners. Building this camaraderie will come in handy when one or more of the people on the phone tree need help moving their horse(s).
- Keep your vet records somewhere safe so that they can be accessed during an emergency. You'll also want to include your 24-hour veterinarian on your emergency contact list.

The Importance Of Photographs

You've probably noticed that one phrase keeps coming up over and over again. There is a good reason for that; photographs make it easier to identify a missing pet.

If the internet has taught us anything, it's that cat and dog owners will have no problem meeting this challenge. No matter what type of pet you have, though, take the time to get an updated photo at least once a year. That way, if you ever end up in an emergency situation, you'll have one less thing to worry about!

Know Where Your Pet Likes To Hide

Finally, we can't stress enough how vital it is to know where your pet likes to hide. Because the truth of the matter is that most pets WILL hide, and you'll need to be able to retrieve them with

haste. The good news is that pets typically have a predictable place to go during certain emergencies.

- Flood or Hurricane - Higher ground is where you should go, and your animals already know this.
- Tornado - A lot of cats and dogs respond to a tornado by curling up in what they perceive to be the safest place in your house.

Sadly, you are unlikely to have a lot of time to seek your pet out. But if you can keep your wits about you, then it's possible to find them rather quickly.

Final Thoughts

Prepping for your pet isn't going to be that different from prepping for yourself. Even if the worst case scenario happens and you're only able to escape with your lives, dogs can be happy eating almost anything. Cats need meat in their diets, but dogs don't. Keep this in mind as you try to figure out what to feed them.

Don't forget that most cats will happily snag their own dinner if you let them. Even if your pet has never been outside, some instincts run too deeply. Given enough time, your pet will learn to survive and even thrive long after the SHTF.



SAFETY GEAR TO BUY (AND AVOID)

You've got a ton of food and water in storage, and you've figured out where you're going to bug out to. You're all set, right? Wrong!

There are many more items that you'll need if you're going to survive. High up on the list is safety gear. After all, safety can mean the difference between puncturing your foot on a screw or merely finding the screw stuck to the bottom of your shoe.

We're going to take a look at some of the best safety gear available to help ensure you make it when the SHTF. Plus, toward the end of this article, we'll also look at a few items that you should stay far, far away from.

SAFETY GEAR THAT YOU REALLY NEED TO SURVIVE

Each of the items on this list can help you survive when everything goes to crap. They may not give you the ability to shoot or stab an intruder, but they can keep you going, even after you've been shot.

BleedStop First Aid Powder

BleedStop is a fantastic invention that can literally stop your bleeding on contact. This doesn't just work on tiny little scrapes, either. Like the box says, BleedStop can "stop bleeding in seconds" and works "for minor cuts to large bleeding wounds."

Obviously, you're probably not going to apply this stuff to someone who has had half their face blown off. But if anyone in your survivalist group has an open wound, they're going to need you to use something exactly like BleedStop.



So, how does it work? This safe, non-stinging formula does its job once you've placed enough BleedStop down to cover the entire wound. The best part is that BleedStop isn't harmful to humans, so you can simply leave it on their skin as you bandage the wound.

5000 Weather Radio



Everyone knows that you'll need a weather radio to get updates. However, this particular hand crank radio offers a lot more features than a radio! You'll receive an emergency/shortwave radio, a power bank for charging your phone via USB, a flashlight, and a compass, too. All of this is packed into a body that costs less than \$36.

One of the things that we love about this radio is that it comes with 7 preset NOAA weather stations and an AM/FM radio receiver. You can use this radio to listen to one of these stations. Alternatively, you can switch this to shortwave mode and pick up any local stations.

Being a survivalist means pulling as many items together as possible without taking up too much room or weighing too much. This radio is a great option because it packs several items together, but it weighs less than 13 ounces.

Another solid feature of this radio is that it has a built-in SOS alarm. Once you activate it, you'd better be prepared to hear some really loud noises. Although you'd never want to use this feature when suspicious people are around (as it could lead them right to you), it can be very beneficial if you are in serious need of help.

Starfire Flashlight

Available from MyCrisisGear.com, this is the flashlight you'll want to have with you during an emergency. It provides a stunning 800 lumens,

which means you'll be able to see quite well. Additionally, you'll love the IPX6 waterproof rating, aircraft aluminum construction, and the fact that this flashlight can double as a self-defense baton.



Some of you might balk at the price, but keep in mind that cheap doesn't mean better. In fact, we couldn't have made this flashlight available to you if we charged less. This is the one flashlight you'll always need, and it'll light your way after the SHTF. Besides which, this is a solid item that can take a licking and keep on ticking, so it beats out any simpler flashlights.

Electric Lighter



In the past, we've spent a lot of time talking about how you're going to light a fire. Yes, you could get a fire starter, but this isn't really convenient when you need to light a cigarette or other small item.

Instead, grab a hold of one of these electric lighters and get ready to be very happy.

There are a wide variety of impressive features, including being waterproof, having a USB rechargeable battery, and boasting a multifunctional lanyard that comes with an emergency whistle.

Picture yourself in the woods, with an electric lighter on the lanyard around your neck. Not only will this make it easier to always find a way to light something on fire, but it's super light as well, weighing in at only 1.7 ounces. So, the next time someone asks for a light, you can easily accommodate them!

Ultra Bright Emergency Glow Sticks



A glow stick can light the area around you and allow you to work hands-free of any lighting device. These particular glow sticks will last at least 12 hours each, and you receive 12 glow sticks. Therefore, as long as you only use one per day, you'll light up the night with such intensity that your glow stick will be seen up to a mile away!

If you think that the wide-ranging glow is impressive, you should also know that these sticks are waterproof, non-toxic, and non-leaking. Whether the S has HTF or you're just going camping, these glow sticks are the perfect emergency lighting choice.

Ox Tactical Backpack



The Ox Tactical Backpack from MyCrisisGear.com is exactly what you need if you have to pack up and move in a hurry. It even comes with a patented waist strap to ensure that you don't have to take on too much shoulder weight.

Even more impressive is this backpack's 3" cushioned straps, which do a fantastic job of distributing the weight.

Do you maybe have a bit too much with you? That's okay! This backpack comes with compression straps to ensure you can carry all payloads. You can also adjust your arm straps for ultimate comfort.

The Ox Tactical Backpack has a 25-liter capacity and is crafted out of military grade 900-denier nylon. In other words, it's going to be just as tough as you'd think.

YAKEDA Tactical Vest

YAKEDA knows how to make a quality, durable product, and that's exactly what their tactical vest is. This item allows you to adjust the size from S-XXXXL. It fits well for anyone who has between a 35" waist and a 57" waist.



This simple fact alone makes the YAKEDA vest stand out in a crowded marketplace. Please don't exceed this vest's height and weight limit of 6'6" and 300 pounds.

Other features include:

- Multi-function vest with two large internal zippered pockets
- Adjustable waist shoulder
- Adjustable belt
- Adjustable mag and zipper
- Lightweight, breathable vest

The entire vest weighs less than three pounds, so it won't weigh you down! It also has a 4.5-star average out of more than 8,800 reviews on Amazon. Therefore, you know you're going to get a quality product.

Long-Range Walkie Talkies

When it's officially time to bug out, you're going to want to have your communication needs sorted out. The good news is that this set of three walkie talkies from Topsung can keep you and two other people in constant contact with each other.



These walkie talkies have a leg up on their competition. Not only do they allow you to talk over a long distance, but they also come with NOAA weather updates. This alone can help you make the best possible decisions, as you'll know what to expect.

They also have a USB charger. As long as you've got a way to charge something (solar panels, anyone?), you can keep these radios working for the long haul.

Wolf Pack Lumbar Pack



After the SHTF, you're going to want to keep a gun on yourself at all times. It just makes good sense because you know that there will be marauding gangs trying to make everyone else's life more difficult. Despite this, you shouldn't get into the habit of waving your gun around. Instead, place it inside this discreet carrier from MyCrisisGear.com.

At a quick glance, most people will probably assume this is your fanny pack. You should let them, too, as this will give you the appearance of being less scary.

Some of the best features of the Wolf Pack include:

- 15-liter capacity
- Breathable neoprene backing for extra comfort
- Military grade 900-denier nylon
- A customized fit with the quick-adjust waist straps
- Has an inner stealth pocket
- MOLLE compatible

Get one now and enjoy going to the gym, your next CrossFit session, or your morning jog with your gun securely by your side.

Durecopow 20000mAh Solar Charger



Let's face it; without electricity, humanity doesn't have nearly as much going for it. Therefore, why not make it easier to bask in the glow of an artificial light? It won't matter if the power grid goes down everywhere. With your solar charger, you'll have the ability to create light.

With your orange, 8.7 ounces of solar potential, you can enjoy using the included hook and carabiner. This will give you hands-free access to the device, and you can be charging your cell phone as you hike across the land.

This item works admirably as a solar charger and has earned a 4.3-star rating on Amazon from more than 8,000 users. It's also got a few uses that go beyond charging your batteries.

- SOS function
- Two LED flashlights
- Dual USB outputs

Oceas Outdoor Mylar Emergency Blankets



Well, the S has HTF, and you've left your normal life behind. Now, you and your family are struggling to survive in the woods. Enter mylar blankets to keep you warm. This pack from Oceas includes four mylar blankets, which should take care of your group. If it doesn't, purchase extra sets until you have enough.

These blankets provide a whopping 20% more coverage than standard emergency blankets. In total, they will unroll to reveal a 7'x5' blanket, which is big enough to cover pretty much everyone. Don't forget that you get four of them as well.

The best thing about these blankets is that they are highly insulated and are rated to reflect back 90% of your body heat. Combine this with their lightweight, durable construction, and you'll be all set to survive a bitterly cold night outside.

Disposable Skin Stapler



The final item on our list of 12 safety gear items to buy comes to us from Matrix Wizard. This sterile skin stapler could easily be the difference between closing up a wound and bleeding out. It's super easy thanks to the 55 sterile wires.

Be sure to add this item to your first aid kit. It's a handy way to make sure that your entire survivalist party survives.

ITEMS YOU SHOULD AVOID

Sometimes, an item is made that sounds like it should work great, but the reviews are terrible. Therefore, allow us to present a few items that you should never, ever purchase.

Tiamont+ Weather Radio



You'll definitely need a weather radio. However, we suggest you steer clear of the radio from Tiamont+. After all, its average rating on Amazon is only 3.1 stars. That makes this item not worth buying, regardless of whether it's on sale (currently available from Amazon.com for only \$19.99) or is selling for its list price of \$89.99.

So, what's wrong with this item? Well, when we turn to the reviews, we can see that people have had a frustratingly difficult time making it work properly. One person said that they charged it for 24 hours, yet the radio and flashlight failed to work. Another individual said that this radio "felt cheap." They also reported that the volume and tuning dials were loose, the speaker sounded "tinny," and that it was quite heavy/bulky for its intended usage.

We suggest looking for a different weather radio instead. Because once the SHTF, you're going to be stuck with whatever you've got, and this radio just isn't going to cut it.

Samniu 4-Pack of Torch Lighters



Initially, this set seems like a good purchase. But there are way too many naysayers for us to ever suggest this set. First off, the gas isn't included, so you're going to need to supply that. Second, people on Amazon have decided that this kit only deserves a 2.5-star rating for value.

Lots of reviewers left negative comments such as the one who said that "at first they don't shut off" and then "you can't get them to light." Another person said that these lighters leak, which is something you'll want to stay far away from. Finally, another reviewer called them "lower end torches" and said that they're hard to fill with butane.

Sounds to us like an item that you definitely don't want to include with your survivalist supplies.

Party Club of America 4" Glow Sticks



Here's another set of glow sticks that promises to offer premium ultra high brightness. It also boasts 50 sticks for one low price - \$13.99 on Amazon. Sounds like a good deal, but let's take a closer look.

After looking at what the reviewers had to say, we've determined that these glow sticks don't ship with the appropriate number. For instance, one person received only 45 glow sticks instead of 50. This is a quality control issue that this company may not improve upon.

To give you a better idea of why, they've had the negative review up since July and have done nothing to improve their score. This tells us that they don't take their item very seriously.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM THIS EXPERIMENT?

Put simply, we hope you've learned the importance of checking your fellow consumers' reviews. We've shown you three items that are quite similar to the items you've been encouraged to purchase. Yet, these items are not worth your money, which should show you the difference in quality.

When you're gathering stuff for when the SHTF, it may be tempting to always go with the cheapest stuff. And sometimes, inexpensive items are a fantastic deal. However, the saying, "you get what you pay for," usually holds up. Therefore, don't stick to the cheapest of the cheap, or you're going to be sorry.

FINAL THOUGHTS

One of the things that worries survivalists is the fear that their gear won't really work once they're in the woods. For those of you who have such fears, allow us to set them to rest.

The first 12 items on this list all received a minimum average review score of 4.3, with the majority of them being at 4.5 or higher. People don't give out good reviews for no reason, so we should trust their lived experience.

While it's always possible that you'll get a dud, the more important thing to focus on is consistency. And each of the first 12 items presented here have it in spades.



WHAT TYPE OF DOG SHOULD YOU GET?

Are you still in the market for a dog? There are three different qualities that most survivalists are looking for, including protection, companionship, and loyalty. Of course, you're going to have to put one of your wish-list items ahead of the others.

BEST DOG FOR PROTECTION

There are a few breeds that'll protect you and the rest of your family. High on that list is the alert, loyal, and fearless Doberman Pinscher.

As long as you take the time to train him or her, a Doberman is quite capable of taking down a full-grown man. Even better, not only can this breed protect you, but it can also provide you with almost perfect loyalty. Treat your Doberman right, and you'll be able to sleep more peacefully, with the knowledge that your dog is on the prowl!

Alternate Ideas: Akita, Bullmastiff, Newfoundland, Rottweiler, etc.

BEST DOG FOR COMPANIONSHIP

If you prefer to have a dog that will be your companion but may not perfectly protect you, get a Golden Retriever. These pups are both affectionate and sweet tempered, and it certainly seems like there is no one on Earth who is a stranger.

One of the best things about getting a Golden for companionship is that your dog will still give the appearance of a possible guard dog. Golden Retrievers are easily medium-to-large sized, yet they have an easygoing, friendly, and eager-to-please nature.

Train your Golden well, and it just might be able to take out intruders, too. This goes against the Golden's pleasant disposition, however, so don't rely on it. Instead, enjoy your dog's companionship and hope that the size of him or her will scare people off before they get too close.

Alternate Ideas: French Bulldog, Irish Wolfhound, Poodle, etc.

BEST DOG FOR LOYALTY

Does loyalty trump everything else for you? Then you have to get a Labrador Retriever. Your dog will be loyal to your entire family, not just you, but it will have a preference for whoever feeds it the most treats and plays with it the most.

There are at least 18 characteristics of a Labrador that make it the perfect dog to show you loyalty.

These include:

- They patiently listen to humans
- They don't judge
- They are gentle
- They offer comfort
- They provide companionship
- They are enthusiastic
- They will find themselves enmeshed in your life
- They are loyal
- They are confident
- They are brave
- They are funny
- They will help keep you fit
- They will keep you busy
- They will help you live longer
- They encourage their humans to keep learning
- They are eager to please
- They will make you a better person by teaching you about emotional responses
- They are loving

Alternate Ideas: German Shepherd, Collie, Saint Bernard, etc.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Getting a dog can change your life. Whether your preference is for protection, companionship, loyalty, or some combination of the three, you can find what you seek with a fuzzy, four-legged buddy.

Tactical Laser Sight



No technical expertise required...
you will have the Tactical Laser Sight on within 45 seconds or less!

- Fits Any Gun With A Picatinny or Weaver Rail... Including Brands Like: S&W, Sig Sauer, Glock, Remington, Beretta, Rugers and many, many more
- 100% shockproof and will stay zeroed in with each and every shot and is even weatherproof!



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