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# MEMBERS UPDATE

November 2023

## Hurricane Preparation

Silent But Deadly: Hunting When Stealth Is A Necessity

11 Survival Skills Everyone Had Less Than 100 Years Ago

Maintaining Your Ordnance For EDC And When The Fan Gets Hit

Next Issue: What Did Your True Love Get You? 12 Gifts For The Gun Lover In Your Life



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The life you have today would look like a dream to someone who was alive 100 years ago. At the same time, you've also lost a lot of the skills that came naturally to someone who was alive in 1923. This may not seem like a big deal at the moment, but when the SHTF, you're going to wish that you had your ancestors by your side. Fortunately, you can learn all the skills that were so essential 100 years ago, and by doing so, make yourself invaluable.

**Next Issue:** What Did Your True Love Get You? 12 Gifts For The Gun Lover In Your Life





# Silent But Deadly: Hunting When Stealth Is A Necessity

By Eric Austgen

MILLETTE

Many a century ago, when the first humans decided to diversify their diet with some tasty meat morsels, they had to figure out the best method to obtain the prize they sought. Since no written records exist to trace the exact evolution of primitive hunting tools, we will probably need to assume that sticks and rocks were some of the first weapons used to provide the fare for history's first block party BBQ. Although sticks and stones are still readily available literally everywhere you look, it is the improved hunting weapons that came later and put meat on the table for centuries before firearms that will be the focus of our study, if only for the fact that these implements have proven so effective over time for dropping all manners of prey. This is such that they are still employed to devastating but quiet effect in the present century.



## Scourge Of Car And House Windows

From David's triumph over Goliath to Dennis Mitchell's back pocket, the slingshot has been a favored weapon for warrior and menace alike. Its simple, compact design can be taken anywhere one might have a need for it.

Most slingshots are of the traditional Y shape, with a rubber band/pad attached to them. As some manufacturers are wont to do to stay ahead of the competition, these weapons are now sometimes made of some sort of composite material with multiple rubber bands, laser sights, arm stabilizers, and all manners of extras. Some are even constructed to resemble firearms. While all these things may seem cool, history has shown that a well-made sling, coupled with consistent practice and a keen eye, will win over bells and whistles any day. If you want to get real simple, a thong sling can be constructed by attaching two latigo laces to a one-by-one inch or larger piece of leather or braiding one from paracord. This type of sling is of the swinging variety instead of the pull and release job.



Using a slingshot for hunting will require the hunter to attempt headshots only. This is due in part to the unreliability of the chosen projectile to deliver a shock large enough to the body to induce death. As this is a weapon primarily for medium to small-sized game, practicing on targets down to the size of a golf ball may be in order to achieve humane kills every outing. As to the ammo, it's lying around on the ground, just taking up space, waiting to be useful. If rocks seem a bit too juvenile for your taste, steel balls made specifically for the slingshot crowd can be found anywhere these supplies are sold. Also, toy stores can be raided for marbles, or you could visit the local auto yard and pick up all the loose ball bearings. Nothing is too good for the stealthiest of hunting weapons.



## No Need To Wear Animal Skins To Hunt With This

This tool was named and used by the Aztecs and is translated as “spear thrower.” Archaeologists have no idea what it was called when it first hit the Upper Paleolithic era of Europe about 17,000 years ago. However, this form of hunting has recently become popular again within the aforementioned bone digger and competitive throwing crowd. That isn't to say it can't be used as a hunting tool by your average Joe. Quite the contrary; these things are capable of reaching respectable velocities and distances that will easily take down large game animals.

The Atlatl is five to twenty-four inches in length, two to three inches in diameter, and is made from bone, wood, or ivory. It is slightly curved and has a hook or indented end. A spear three to eight feet in length rests in the Atlatl. By pulling the throwing arm back and releasing the spear, it becomes an extension of the throwing arm and acts as a lever. Depending on the thrower's skill, a spear can be

launched at speeds well in excess of sixty miles per hour and hit targets out to a range of twenty to three hundred yards.

To use this device, grip it as you would a baton, holding the Atlatl and spear at eye level. Sight the target, lead with the leg opposite your throwing arm, put all your weight into a forward dropping movement, and finish with a smooth, straight follow-through. This tool will require practice. However, if you feel it might be a pain to learn, keep in mind that 13,000-year-old stone spear points have been unearthed showing fractures consistent with high-velocity Atlatl use, but since we have come a long way in projectile technology, a modern Atlatl hunter will have no problem bagging the seasons limit without breaking a sweat.



## Don't Shoot Your Eye Out With These

Airguns are the only silent hunting weapons on the list that can't claim a lineage to our ancient ancestors, who probably would have loved a few hanging about the cave. Let me boast of the quality improvements made to the gun's design in the short time it has been in existence. The history nerd in me demands that I point out that Lewis and Clark brought along a .46 caliber air rifle on their sojourn to Oregon, so that should settle the question of whether you can hunt with one of these things or not.

There are three types of power plants to consider when purchasing an airgun for hunting: multi-pump, spring/gas piston, or pre-charged pneumatic, i.e., CO2 cartridges or larger air tanks filled by a compressor or hand pump. Multi-pump pistols will have a range of up to 5 yards, while the rifle will go as far as 30 yards. Expect the spring/gas pistol to hit targets out to 10 yards and the rifle out to 50 yards. Naturally, the CO2 cartridges will deliver a bigger punch than their mechanical brethren, which



means the pistol will be effective up to 20 yards, with the rifle clocking in at a respectable 75 yards. The most powerful air rifle on the market is the AirForce Texan, which shoots slugs at 1000 feet per second and produces over 600 pounds of energy, more than enough to easily take down any large game animal found in North America.

The type of ammunition used in hunting games is of the pellet variety rather than can-plinking BBs. This is due to the need for smooth sailing to the target and expansion of the projectile upon impact with the body, the very same concepts as cartridge-fired bullets. Deep penetration is exactly what the pointed pellet was designed to do. They are available as a solid body projectile or a hollow point body connected to the penetration tip, which increases expansion after impact. The domed pellets were designed to fly straight and true. Where the lethality comes into the equation is in the weight and composition of the pellet along with the velocity provided, as this will determine the depth and deformity of the pellet. Hollow point pellets share the same aerodynamic properties as the domed guys but will expand quickly and severely deform due to the hollow point. The slug is an airgun projectile with the same ballistic coefficient comparable to a big boy bullet, but it is made for low-velocity hits. This fellow was built to travel fast and straight, producing maximum damage from expansion upon impact. All of these pellet designs are recommended for successful hunting expeditions.

There are several different calibers from which to choose. However, so as not to complicate things, we will look at each caliber and the game against which it is most effective. The .177 is the smallest of the bunch and can easily put tasty fowl of the Quail, Pigeon, Dove, and Grouse variety on your plate. Headshots are a must in order to minimize meat damage. Whether it's for varmint elimination or small game eating purposes, the .22 continues to be the go-to for both jobs. This caliber is great for squirrels, prairie dogs, rabbits, pheasants, groundhogs, and turkeys. As with the game taken with the .177, the .22 will also require a headshot, and both can use all three power plants for pellet propulsion. Predators and medium-sized games will need to worry about the .25 and the person who knows how to sling it. A brain or heart shot

with this to a bobcat, beaver, fox, coyote, or maybe the odd wolf will silence these pests and put some snappy duds on your back in the process. From here on out, one can expect to employ a shot to the heart, brain, or vital organs in conjunction with pre-charged pneumatic weapons. Medium-sized game aspiring for a spot on the big boy team can be handily taken down with a .30 pellet. These types of animals consist of javelina, small hogs, small antelope, and small deer. If you are a glutton for punishment and want to go head-to-head with a feral hog or cling to the side of a mountain to bag a bighorn sheep or mountain goat, then the .357 is just the ticket. Rounding out the high-caliber pellet roster are the .45 and .50 bad boys. These will take down large antelope, bear, mule deer, elk, moose, and bison, in that order. The .45 will be for games up to 500 pounds and the .50 for over that; the only negative with the .50 is that it is noisy.



## The Important Part Of An Atlatl

Even without the benefit of an Atlatl, the simple spear is still a reliable weapon for hunting and self-defense purposes. These spears can be anything from a well-sharpened end on a stout stick, or you can buy a commercially-made affair constructed of lightweight machined metal with a variety of different gnarly-looking points to suit every need. One may also fashion a spear from as straight a stick as can be found, generally the length of one's height, and a belt knife with a blade length of at least six inches. Although the spear can be hurled through the air to hit targets, it is very effective as



a thrusting weapon that allows the user to stay at a comfortable distance from their quarry without fear of retaliation.

The type of spear point you use will depend on the type of prey you will be hunting. To hunt small game or do a little angling, a sphere with a multipronged head, much like a gig or trident, should be employed. A point with barbs or other embellishments to help keep the critter from getting away is another consideration. Self-defense spear points will be smooth-edged and broad, with the ability to inflict nasty penetration or slashing wounds. The points typically found on hunting spears are comparable to the combat type; however, the hunting points will have a crossbar behind the blade to keep the animal from continuing up the pole towards the hunter, a design that helps immensely with leverage and control over the struggling animal. Naturally, one could purchase a spear or point right off the rack and be done with it. However, all my fellow DIYers out there can make points from various discarded items. Sturdy blades can be made from old circular saw blades, automobile leaf springs, masonry trowels, or anything that can be repurposed into a blade. If you want to stay traditional, well-crafted stone points and blades are just as much of a killer as their metal counterparts.



## Going Walkabout

To be quite honest, when I first heard about boomerangs as a kid and their remarkable ability to not only kill the animal they had been flung at, but also return to the hand of the hurler, I wavered between skepticism and acceptance. That is until one day at recess, when one of the guys told us his old man said it was a load of bunk. He was correct, of course, but the killing capability of this weapon is no bunk. I am comfortable assuming that you, dear reader, have seen one at some point in your

life, so I won't waste time with description, only on how to hunt with it. However, this is a weapon that will require a great deal of practice.

The first thing you will want to do is scout your hunting area to make sure you have enough room for the boomerang to do its job and to keep the animal at a safe distance from you. Once supper has been spotted, the hurler should get a running start to gain speed and greater force when the stick is released. The boomerang should be held above the throwing shoulder, with the concave part facing toward the intended kill and the flat side facing down. The direction the boomerang travels will be dependent on your wrist-flicking skills, so this will be an important practice point. Also, make sure that you put your full strength behind the release. A boomerang thrown downward or in a manner that skims the ground will fly about fifty feet or more. You can also throw it so that it hits the ground, rocketing it into the air and towards your target swiftly. You can play around with different ways of releasing the boomerang, but the ideal flight pattern is one that spins in a circular motion akin to a figure eight to achieve a lethal hit. Sounds like an easy thing to use, doesn't it? I assure you it is not. I took one out for a test spin years ago, and by the end of the day was kind of close to the target. I also had muscles I was unaware of that were mutually shouting my demise. But this shouldn't deter you from exploring this weapon as an option when all others have been exhausted.

## In Conclusion

You may have noticed that archery weapons were not included in this treatise on silent weapons, as we have already dealt with this subject. I am also aware of the existence of blowguns. However, I decided not to include this hunting implement, as it has some reliability problems that fall squarely on the user and gun alike. The thing with blowguns is that one will need a good set of lungs and the ability to eyeball a target well in order to operate this tool properly. On the gun side of it, the ammunition is light enough that it would be knocked off course by a stiff breeze or anything floating through the air if it does not reach a swift velocity. Despite this, I thought I would mention it in case you are inclined to investigate the matter further. So, until next time, dear reader, stay safe and let's be careful out there.



# Maintaining Your Ordnance For EDC And When The Fan Gets Hit

By Eric Austgen

A few months back, we chewed the fat over the subject of long-term storage. As I noted then, I felt that the information for the care of ammunition was only superficial and deserved a spotlight of its own. So, as promised, we will now address this extremely crucial part of your overall firearms maintenance program. I mean, after all, if you don't have ammunition in good working order, you may as well just use your gun as a club or do what everyone in the cheap old gangster and Western movies used to do after they ran out of rounds; throw it at the other guy. It won't do one any good to have a firearm in perfect working order only to have the star of the show underperforming like '87 Yugo. Therefore, we shall expand our look into long-term storage and also include some ideas on how to care for the rounds in your EDC.



## It's Getting Really Weird Out There

Many moons ago, I never would have imagined that stockpiling ammunition would be a "thing." Growing up, we had a few bricks of ammo lying around for the occasional trip to the mountains or aerating an intruder. Only the conspiracy theory crowd and early prepper types advanced this radical idea that the citizenry would need to have large amounts of ammo at some point. This, of course, would be due to legislating it, buying it all up, using other nefarious schemes to bankrupt the industry, and interrupting the direct supply chain to the people. The other point to stockpiling was to satisfy the spirit of the 2A, when direct infringement like this occurred. Apparently, what many people scoffed at as nothing but pure malarkey in the early 90's has come to frightening fruition today. Attempts to ban foreign sales of cheap ammo has certainly narrowed the market for available rounds, limiting it to the North American continent only, and becoming a booming industry for part-time handloaders, turning their hobby into a full-time position to keep up with the demand for more product. The name-brand cartridge and shell makers are still churning them out, but with supply and demand the way it is, the only route you may have in keeping an increasingly hostile world at bay is stockpiling readily-made ammo or handloading your own. This will require purchasing multiple ingredients and equipment, which may be difficult to find, to make one round. Also, there are some pros and cons to it, but I'll



leave it up to you as to how you would like to proceed.



## **An Expanded View On Long And Short Term Storage**

To have properly functioning ammunition for whenever that particular rainy day in your life happens, you must consider the two things most destructive to any round: heat and moisture. The heat factor would degrade the primer and powder to the point of reduced performance or rendering it non-firing; however, this would only be a concern if you were storing your ammo in places where the mercury shoots over 150 degrees consistently, such as metal storage sheds, attics, car trunks, and the like. Moisture will cause corrosion to brass and, given time, will seep into the cartridge through the primer, soaking the powder and turning it into slingshot ammo. That means damp under and above-ground areas will be verboten; however, those who live in areas where clothes stick to you as soon as you leave the house, fear not; we have ways of getting around that blasted humidity.

The only equipment needed for proper storage is heavy-duty plastic bags of the seal top variety, desiccant packs, and sturdy sealable containers. The best containers to use would be the surplus military .30 and .50 link boxes with a rubber gasket in the lid to produce a watertight seal. These can be gotten in plastic or metal online or at your local brick and mortar, and can store a few hundred rounds if kept in their boxes or a few thousand if placed in plastic bags; again, entirely up to you. The heavy-duty plastic bags and desiccant pouches should be self-explanatory as to their purpose and are readily available at any big store.

Although desiccant packs can be found in almost anything that comes in a cardboard box from foreign shores, there are packets in stores designed to tackle different-sized jobs. You should also consider getting some moisture indicator cards to test potential storage areas. Also, place this in your storage containers to monitor moisture infiltration over time; places with less than a 25 percent reading are ideal. Those living in perpetually sammy environments should pop the silica packets in the oven a couple of times a year at 140-150 degrees for about one-half hour to restore their effectiveness.

When dealing with any surplus or commercial ammo can, plastic or metal, be sure to thoroughly inspect the rubber gasket around the lid, as this is crucial to successfully maintaining the moisture barrier. The plastic guys should be able to withstand a missile hit and handle the weight of the ammo without the bottom plunging out of it.

Now that the necessary supplies have been gathered, you can start packing things. For those who want to leave the rounds in the box and store them that way with a few silica packs, I wish you Godspeed and a safe journey, as this is the easiest form of storage. However, it has the least rounds packed per can. Storing bulk rounds in bags and placing them into the container requires an extra precaution on the stockpiler's part, that being the use of gloves. It doesn't matter what type you wear, just as long as you aren't handling ammo to be stored for an extended period with your dirty, oily little digits. Yes, the same scourge of your firearms finish can do quite a number on ammo brass as well, especially if it isn't wiped down on the regular. This problem is further compounded by the fact that everyone is made differently and, therefore, has a body chemistry makeup that could produce oils and acids that would either gradually eat through the brass or immediately, like me with a plate of steak and beans. You should also inspect the primer to make sure that the factory or handloader has applied a dab of primer sealant to it. It is usually green or reddish in color. If there is none present, put some on all the rounds lacking it, and if you don't have a bottle of sealant handy, regular clear nail polish will work in a pinch.





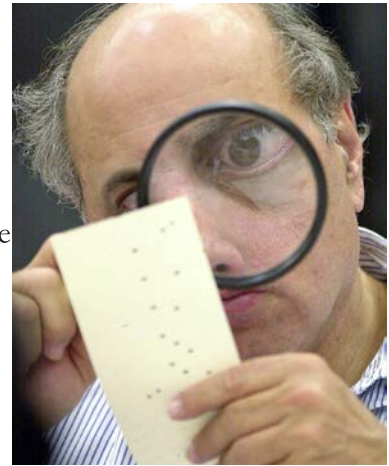
## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Once a spot has been selected to store your ordnance, it would be wise to take some extra measures to ensure your ammo will not be bothered by moisture. You should set down an appropriately sized pallet so that the storage containers are not sitting directly on the floor, making them an easy target for unexpected flooding or other wet disasters. You might also want to keep your containers away from walls, just in case a pipe bursts or your storage area isn't quite weatherproof. If you have chosen surplus metal cans to store ammo, you may want to apply two or three coats of white rust-preventative paint to the interior and exterior. This will serve as added protection against oxidation, and the white will reflect and dissipate primary and any lingering heat. When storing your bulk ammo in bags, it would be a good idea to place them outside of the bag to mitigate the moisture outside rather than have the packet soak up moisture inside the bag and start the dreaded corrosion process. A moisture detection card should be the only thing placed in the bag with the ammo so that you will have a quick visual reference as to the state of affairs within the bag. Thinking about it, go ahead and throw one in the container as well since practicing a little CYA never hurt anyone. These can be replaced at the manufacturer's recommended time or whenever you inspect and rotate your ammo. If the cards show high levels of moisture, check the seals on the container to make sure they are not cracked or brittle. Look for any punctures or holes in the container that could admit moisture. Replace the container, or it might be time to scout for a

new storage location if repeated cards indicate the same, no matter how sound or new your container may be.

## INSPECTING AND ROTATING

As to when one should rotate out their ammo supply, this will be purely predicated upon where an individual lives. For most of the general population in the lower 48, two times a year should be sufficient, while those in a more humid and



hot climate should look to a quarterly schedule. Marking the bags or boxes with the caliber and date they were bagged will help with setting a consistent routine. These periods will allow you to inspect the ammo for corrosion or any water-related mishaps that may have occurred unbeknownst to you. Any rounds that are obviously or suspected to be bad should be immediately separated from the good bunch and appropriately discarded. This includes any signs of corrosion, funky deposits inside the primer pocket, or your airtight bag has fogged over for some reason. All old stock ammo should be used first before bumping up and replenishing your stock. This will keep you in a fresh supply of trustworthy ammo. You can keep your skills up at the range, and you will have a good idea of how well your storage method is working. Despite your best efforts, you may find some ammo that looked to be in primo condition when it went in and came out of the bag but misfires instead. This may be a factory defect and no fault of your own; however, one should be prepared for this eventuality.

## FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FREQUENT CARRIERS

The daily ritual of going out into the world heeled is something that many people treat as second nature and nothing at which to bat an eye. That is almost bordering on complacency, especially if you are a daily carrier that just straps an iron on regularly without going through another important

ritual other than carrying or ensuring the working order of the sidearm, that being the inspection and rotation of your carry ammo. As opposed to ammo that is currently in storage, the rounds you carry daily for self-defense will suffer more abuse in reserve, so it is absolutely paramount that they are in tip-top shape at all times.



Inspection should occur every morning before you go about your business. You should unload the magazine or cylinder and give each round a good eyeballing. Look at the bullet to see if it has been pushed into the casing or is being unseated; this happens when the same cartridges sitting at the top of the magazine are consistently racked and ejected. To prevent this problem, you should frequently unload and reload the magazine with the same rounds but in different positions in the lineup. Revolvers shouldn't have this problem. However, all sidearm ammo should be examined for tarnishing, which indicates that moisture has begun to go to work on the round. This can be exacerbated by the sweat and oils that come in contact with your firearm during the day. While this rarely makes a round fail, it is still good practice to wipe the firearm and ammo down at the end of each day.

The frequency of cycling through your carry ammo is purely up to you and your shooting habits. Since carry ammo is relatively cheap, or if you are drawing upon your own stockpile, then one to two times a year is appropriate for those that carry but have a tough time penciling in a range date. This new ammo supply will allow you to practice proper gun control with the old stuff and put the rookies into service soon after that.

Most daily carriers already have a company and load they stick to because it works for them. However, some people crave change and like to sample a little bit of everything, and there are a few things that should be considered when purchasing a new brand and load when it comes to ammo. The first thing would be to buy two boxes of the new ammo for testing purposes. It will help determine if the cartridges run smoothly through your mohaska with each trigger squeeze. It will also help you determine the quality of the round. The rounds should be inspected to make sure that it is the proper caliber, the primer is seated and flush with the case head, the case head is round and free of defects or dents, the mouth of the cartridge has been properly crimped and free of cracks or rollover, it has been shaken to determine if there is powder, and fits into the chamber. As to shaking the round to check for powder, this is easy on rifle rounds. Pistol rounds will not produce the rattle effect, but you can feel the weight of the powder and scant back-and-forth movement when shaken. Chamber fits should always be conducted with just the stripped-down barrel in pistols and swung out cylinder in revolvers.

Magazines should not be overlooked in your inspection routine, as the materials used to make many of them are usually not up to snuff after a few years of hard abuse. This test should be conducted by putting full, half, and quarter loads in the magazine to determine the fitness of the spring. Regular breakdown and cleaning will also help spot a weakness or failing in any part, paying particular attention to the magazine's feed lips. The magazine should be replaced if these or the whole mag are found to be dented, bent, cracked, or marred. If the magazine doesn't slide in smoothly like the day you bought it, it may be time to get a new one, as a cheap twenty or thirty-buck replacement will certainly be worth your life.

As much as it pains me as a leather smith to say this, I must do so because it is quite germane to this topic; don't ever store ammo in leather cartridge belts or in pouches for long periods. The result is a greening condition called verdigris, which stems from the leftover tanning acid in the leather reacting with the brass, meaning the first steps of corrosion are taking hold. Be vigilant by storing ammo separately. So, until next time, dear reader, stay safe and let's be careful out there.





# HURRICANE PREPARATION

If you live in an area that's prone to hurricanes, it's time to start preparing for the next one right now. Ensure that your entire family is aware of what to do—and where to go—if they get caught up in hurricane madness.

Speaking of madness, it's important to remind everyone that they don't need to 'ride out' the storm at home. Even if you have a neighbor who can't afford to go anywhere, it's not going to take that much money to help them go somewhere else for a day or two. In other words, if you care whether they live or die, help them out a bit, okay?

Of course, if you live in the outlying zones of the storm, you'll most likely deal with a lesser amount of flooding and wind. In this instance, it may be best to stay at home until the hurricane passes. After all, the sheer number of people trying to evacuate the area can cause traffic jams and massive backups.

Whichever course of action you decide to take, you're going to need to have some supplies handy. So, put your feet up for a little while and enjoy reading this article before you begin putting these tips into action.

## ***MAKE A HURRICANE PLAN***

Hurricanes don't tend to sneak up on people. Unlike a tornado, you're probably going to have plenty of time to either evacuate or secure yourselves inside a hurricane-ready house. Before either of these things happen, though, you will need to make a plan. This will include:

- **Preparing your home**
- **Having a means of communication**
- **Evacuation plan**

After the weatherperson tells you that a hurricane is getting ready to bear down over your location, it's time to get into action. Your first step is to prepare your home. You'll need to board up your windows, bring the outside furniture inside, and secure the siding and roof. Taking these precautions can help limit damages to your home.

You'll also need to talk about your communications plan. First off, put all of your contact info in one document, and be sure to give each family member a copy. You'll also need to determine who is going to be responsible for reaching out to whom.



Another thing you'll need to have is a means of communicating with the outside world. Using a solar radio will give you critical updates and news, regardless of if your power goes out.

What should you do if things get bad enough to necessitate evacuating? You'll need a bug out bag prepared and a full tank of gas. Be sure you shut off the utilities to your house, and then get going! If someone in your family can't reach you, they might be able to get to a designated meeting spot. Have one selected that's on your evacuation route. That way, no one will have to waste extra time going somewhere else.

## **STOCK UP ON THE RIGHT SUPPLIES**



Okay, now that you know where to go if you need to evacuate, it's time to focus on gathering hurricane-appropriate supplies. There are four main things you should focus on:

- Food
- Water
- Alternative power source
- First aid

When you put together a hurricane survival kit, you're going to need at least a three-day supply of food. Gathering even more food is always beneficial, however. In Florida, they actually recommend having five days' worth of food. You'll want to gather non-perishable items such as canned goods and peanut butter. You can also add some granola bars for a quick burst of energy.

Next up is water, and this is absolutely critical. Again, gather at least a three-day supply, but try to have a minimum of a five-day supply. Make sure you've got at least one gallon of water, per person, per day. You'll want to do this even if you're staying home. After all, a hurricane typically shuts off access to usable water for a couple of days. Alternatively, you can install a water filtration system.

Once the hurricane is gone, you're probably going to need an alternate power source. Therefore, be sure to stock up on candles. Anytime you spot a good sale, pick up several candles, and you'll end up with enough.

Another method you can use is a generator. These are much more expensive and require a little bit of know-how, but they can offer a fantastic respite. Additionally, don't forget that a camp stove can give you a way to cook while the city is still working on getting your electricity restored.

As far as first aid goes, any good survivalist will tell you to always keep a good first aid kit handy. During a hurricane, people can suffer from sprains, stings, cuts, etc. Having the ability to treat a wound can save you from dealing with health complications later on.

## **PROTECT YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE**



What is the last thing you'll have time to worry about after a hurricane hits? That's right—money. But what's the one thing that can become absolutely critical for clean-up time? Yes, that's right again—money. There are three essential categories this time.

- Cash
- Insurance
- Important documents



A hurricane has passed over, and it's left your town an absolute mess. As a result, the electrical grid is down, which means that you're not going to be able to use your credit cards. The good news is that you've prepared for this, and have some cash on hand. This will solve your eating problem, and it'll also ensure you can purchase gas and other necessities as needed.

Insurance can help you rebuild your home after a hurricane is done. Therefore, get yourself some insurance right away, if you don't already have it. Also, take the time to set up a policy with the National Flood Insurance Program. Otherwise, whatever water damage you suffer from will NOT be covered by most policies.

Gathering all your important documents together and placing a copy of them in your hurricane bug out bag is a very wise choice. Ensure you have copies of your insurance, medical records, and anything financial. That way, if your house is damaged, you can still access everything you need.

## **MAPS ARE KEY**



One mistake that a lot of people make is not bringing any paper maps with them as they evacuate. They seemingly figure that they'll be able to cruise down the road and that nothing will get in their way. The truth, however, is quite different.

Most of the time, when you attempt to evacuate, you'll find yourself in a traffic jam. Occasionally, you'll even come across an unintended barrier that prevents you from moving forward. So, what should you do?

Easy! Grab a paper map and look for an alternate route. Finding a road that will take you the same way with less traffic is always a win! We suggest looking for freeway service roads. These roads typically run next to a bigger road, but most people will never think to take them.

## **IS SOMEONE DISABLED?**



In Florida, if someone is disabled, they may enter their info on the state's Special Needs Registry. This helps emergency first responders determine where to go next. Although some people may not like the idea of entering their info into the database, it is one of the best ways to potentially save your life.

## **MORE ON FLOOD INSURANCE**

We briefly mentioned flood insurance earlier in this article, but let's take a closer look.

Do you have insurance for your home? Have you checked your policy to make absolutely sure that it covers flood damage? Go on, get it out and check. We'll wait.

You've looked it over, and what's that? No flood insurance? Sadly, this continues to be a nasty surprise for people around the country. But the reality is that if a hurricane brings a flood with it, you won't be protected unless you've purchased flood insurance. Even then, you may not even be completely covered.

First off, you probably need to carry your coverage for at least 30 days before it goes into effect. In other words, if you purchase flood insurance right

now and your neighborhood is flooded in 10 days, you're most likely going to be out of luck.

Another thing to remember is that unless the President declares a Presidential Disaster Declaration, you will NOT receive assistance from FEMA. Even if the President does put a declaration in place, you're not going to get that much unless you also have National Flood Insurance.

Assuming that the President makes a disaster declaration, the average amount that homeowners receive from FEMA is around \$5,100. That's not exactly going to help you much as you rebuild your flooded home. However, if you signed up for National Flood Insurance, the average payout is around \$29,000.

No matter what you decide to do, at least now you've got the facts and shouldn't be surprised if you're not eligible for assistance (unless you purchase flood insurance, that is).

## **TAKE CARE OF YOUR PETS**



Do NOT leave your pets behind, unless you don't mind if you never see them again. Prepare for disaster by doing the following:

- **Have a safe place to take them**
- **Put together a portable pet disaster kit**
- **Know what to do if a disaster is approaching**
- **Make a plan for large animals**

Begin by figuring out what shelters will allow you to bring your pet with you. You can also check hotels/motels outside your immediate area. Be sure to ask if their pet rules are suspended during a hurricane

emergency. Also, check with your close family and friends to see if one of them would be willing to watch your pet. As an absolute last resort, you could see if an animal shelter will provide them with temporary cover.

Whenever you have to leave your pet with someone else, they're going to need a portable pet disaster kit. That way, if the storm also takes out your friend's place, there will be a better chance of recovering your pet. Include the following:

- First aid kit
- Medical records and medications
- Photo of you with your pet
- Sturdy harness, leash, or carrier
- Food
- Potable water
- Can opener
- Bowls
- Cat litter pan
- Info on feeding schedules, behavioral problems, medical conditions, etc.
- Pet toys
- Pet bed (if easily transportable)

What happens if the evacuation order comes and you're not home? Call a trusted neighbor and ask them to take your pet for a bit. The two of you may also pick a prearranged spot for you to pick up your pet. Be sure they're familiar with your pet and comfortable with the process of finding everything your pet will need.

**REMEMBER:** The way your pet acts at home could be quite different from the way they act when they're under stress. Even the most trustworthy, loving animal can run away—or even lash out at you—when they're under stress. Always keep them on a leash or in a carrier for their protection.

If you happen to have a larger animal, such as a horse, you'll have to put even more thought into your evacuation plan. Bring dry bedding, windbreaks, and handling equipment. Also, be sure you've got everything needed to transport them.



## ***MORE ON YOUR EVACUATION PLAN***

Just as we did with flood insurance, we're going to expound upon your evacuation plan now.

First, have the evacuation discussion with your family in advance. This will give everyone time to get used to it, and it'll also provide time to determine if there's something wrong with your plan.

If you receive an official evacuation warning, heed it immediately. Do NOT delay your departure. Choose an evacuation destination close to you but outside of danger. If this means you must leave your county, be prepared to deal with a LOT of traffic.

Headed to a hotel? Call or use the internet to make a reservation before you leave your home. As soon as the evacuation warning goes out, people will start booking hotels. If you don't book one quickly, you could be out of luck.

Can't get into any hotels or friends' houses? As a last resort, you can go to a shelter. But remember that shelters are not designed for comfort, and most of them won't accept pets.

## ***HURRICANE CHECKLIST***

Florida is, naturally, the U.S.'s first point of attack for most hurricanes. Thankfully, you can use this checklist to make sure you can get through a hurricane alive. Nothing will absolutely guarantee this, however, so make absolutely certain you can leave the area if the hurricane is predicted to be extreme.

### **General Items**

- Two-week supply of medication
- List the style, name, serial number, and manufacturer for medical devices
- Flashlights
- Batteries
- NOAA weather radio

- Cell phone chargers
- Games, books, puzzles, etc. for kids

### **First Aid**

- First aid manual
- Sterile gauze pads
- Sterile bandages, several different sizes
- Triangular bandages
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Sewing needle
- Antiseptic
- Moistened towelettes
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfectant wipes
- Thermometer
- Petroleum jelly
- Soap
- Safety Pins
- Sunscreen
- Latex gloves
- Anti-diarrheal medication
- Aspirin
- Laxative
- Q-tips
- Cotton balls

### **Important Documents**

- Medical records
- Insurance cards
- Credit card numbers
- Banking info
- Copies of Social Security cards
- Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates
- Set of house, car, and office keys
- Veterinary records
- Copy of your will

## ***PLEASE KEEP THESE ITEMS IN A WATERPROOF CONTAINER.***

### **Phone Numbers**

- Important phone numbers, including evacuation sites, county emergency management office, doctors, schools, veterinarian, bank, out of town contacts (family/friends)

### **Vehicle**

- Keep your gas tank full

### **Clothing**

- Sturdy boots/shoes and work gloves
- Rain gear (jackets, umbrellas, hats, and rain boots)

### **Food And Water**

- Food (non-perishable, canned food, snack food, baby food, etc.)
- Water (1 gallon per person, per day)
- Paper plates
- Non-electric can opener
- Plastic cups
- Napkins
- Utensils

### **Pet Care Items**

- Food and water
- Medical records
- Microchip info
- Proper identification
- Cage or carrier
- Muzzle and leash
- Medications
- Food and water bowls
- Service animal supplies

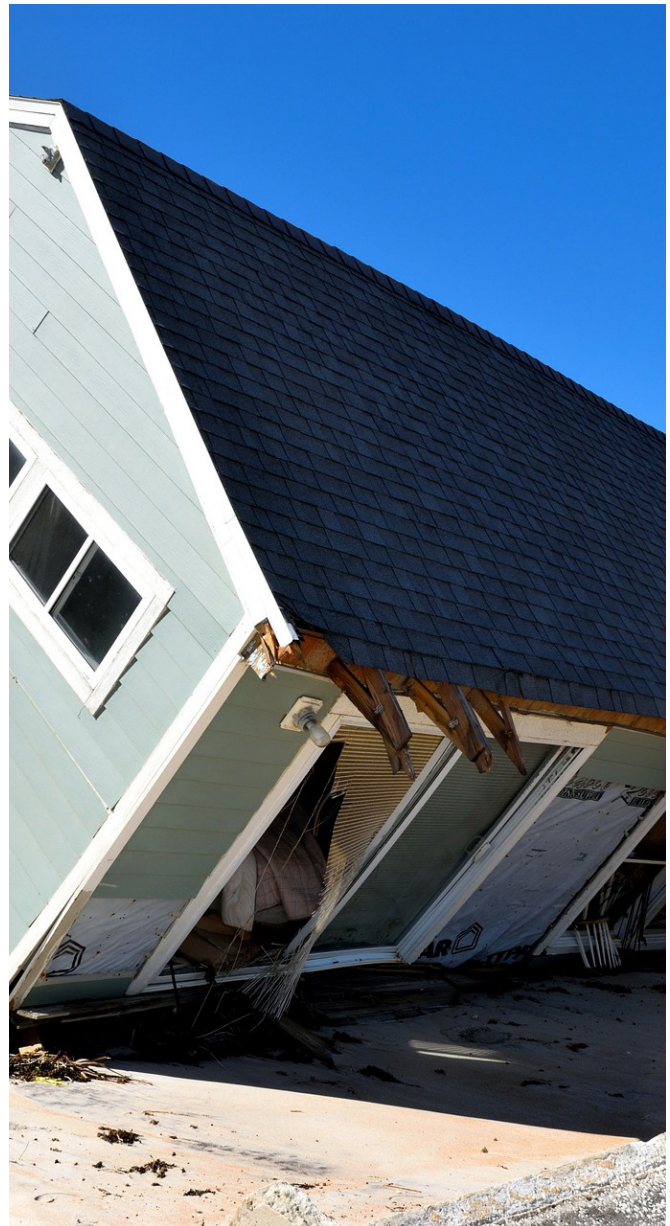
### **Special Needs Items**

- Special items for the elderly, small children, family members with a disability, etc.

## ***FINAL THOUGHTS***

No matter what your initial thoughts are, you should take action when a hurricane is predicted for your area. There have been many big hurricanes in recent years, and it's not a good idea to take any chances. Hurricane Maria, Hurricane Katrina, and Hurricane Harvey are among the top five worst hurricanes in history, and they are all from the past 18 years (with two of them being from 2017).

Hurricanes aren't going away anytime soon. In fact, their ire seems to be getting bigger. Protect yourself and your loved ones, and do it right now. You never know when the next major hurricane will be headed your way. By taking the necessary precautions right now, you'll be in a much better place when a hurricane decides to hit.





# 11 SURVIVAL SKILLS EVERYONE HAD LESS THAN 100 YEARS AGO



How far back do you have to go in your family line to reach 100 years ago? This may seem like a big number, but the reality is that most people only need to go back to their great-grandparents (or even just their grandparents). That's a mere two generations away from where you're sitting right now. However, in terms of technological breakthroughs, we might as well be talking about a distance of 1,000 years.

In the US, it took until 1925 for half of American homes to get electricity. But did you know that it was 1960 before virtually all US homes could shine brightly through the night? And that only 40.9% of American homes had a telephone in 1930? Or how about the fact that outhouses only went out with virtually all homes that were built in the 1970s and 1980s? Or, oddly, how almost every American household owned a car by the 1930s, even though they didn't have phones, electricity, or indoor plumbing?

All of the above facts are true, and it's important to remember how close we are—in years, anyway—to a time when you would have no electricity, no telephone, and no indoor plumbing. Going along with these things was a vast store of knowledge that each individual had to know if they were going to survive.

Now, think about the way things are today. You wake up to an alarm clock and shuffle into your kitchen, where an automatic timer has already made you a fresh pot of coffee. Then, you drive your car to your job, a place with electricity, indoor plumbing, several telephones, etc. Once you're off for the day, you go pick up a pizza and maybe some beers, and then you kick back on your recliner to watch a game.

In other words, the life you have today would look like a dream to someone who was alive 100 years ago. And even if you live below the poverty line, the odds are extremely good that you've still got so much more than your ancestors ever could have imagined.

At the same time, though, you've also lost a lot of the skills that came naturally to someone who was alive in 1923. This may not seem like a big deal at the moment, but when the SHTF, you're going to wish that you had your ancestors by your side. Fortunately, you can learn all the skills that were so essential 100 years ago, and by doing so, make yourself invaluable.

## SURVIVAL SKILLS EVERYONE HAD ABOUT 100 YEARS AGO

Do you have the survival skills to remain alive



when society collapses? Your great-grandfather knew them and probably passed some of that information down to your grandparents. By the time it was your parents' generation, though, most survival skills were thought to be passé. After all, we had better answers to the questions that had originally made survival skills so important.

But what happens if all of our modern conveniences are swept into the trash? Can you truly survive when it comes down to you and your wits? We can't say for sure about your odds as you are right now, but after you dedicate yourself to learning these survival skills, you're going to have good odds of making it.

## 1. Calculate Your Position Using Just The Sun And Stars



Quick – take a look at the night sky. Can you recognize any constellations? Do you know the names of the brightest spots in the sky? If you answered yes, then you're part of an ever-dwindling number of people who can use the stars—and the sun—to calculate your position.

Can't do it? Don't worry; you're in the same boat as the vast majority of people alive today. As long as you can remember how to add and subtract numbers, along with the fact that angles are measured in degrees and will usually be denoted by the degree sign ("°"), you're good to go. A sextant and nautical charts will do the rest.

If you're sitting there wondering what the heck I just wrote, then you'll begin to understand how this

has become a lost art. Yet I can promise you that a mere 100 years ago, your ancestors could absolutely do this trick. And remember—a lot of them didn't have the opportunity to attend school for more than a few years.

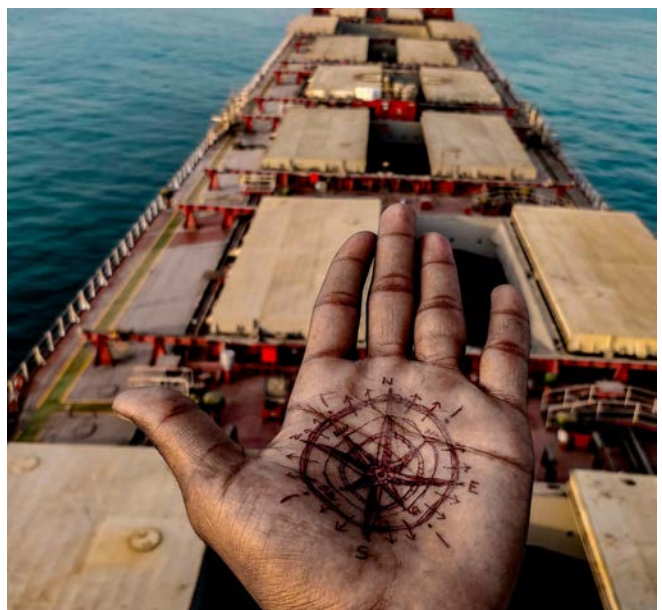
## 2. How To Navigate Using A Compass And A Map

Before GPS existed, pretty much everyone knew how to get from point A to point B using a compass and a map. But now if you were to ask someone how to do this, you'd probably get a lot of blank stares. This might be okay for right now, but what happens if our GPS systems all begin to crash?

It's predicted that after the SHTF, there will be no working GPS left. How will you know where to go when you try to bug out? First, bust out your compass to get a better understanding of your current position, along with which way you're facing. Then, use a paper map to calculate where you want to go and how to get there.

We know, we know; it sounds super easy, but can it really be so simple? The answer is a resounding yes! So, leave your GPS behind and learn how to pick your route from a map. And don't forget to bring a compass. That way, you'll start walking (or driving) in the right direction.

## 3. Figure Out Which Way Is North Without A Compass





Sit in your living room and try to figure out what direction is north. For some of you, this will be child's play. For others, you'll have absolutely no idea. Either way, once you've completed this step, it's time to go into the woods and try to guess which way is north again. Now that your landmarks have been removed, can you accurately determine which direction to head in?

The trick to pulling this off is to learn how to read the signs that objects on the ground are telling you. Depending on which one works best for you, you can use shadows, shapes, natural formations, or sound to find your way.

There are several ways to figure out where the true north is. First, if it's daytime:

- Find a straight stick that's around 2 feet long
- Poke the stick into clean, flat ground
- Put a rock at the end of the shadow that's created
- Wait for 20-30 minutes
- Mark the shadow's new location
- Draw a straight line between your indicator rocks
- Mark a W on the first rock and an E on the second rock
- Place your left foot on W and your right foot on E
- This will complete your 'compass' and will point to true north

If, however, it's nighttime, try this:

- Locate the Big Dipper constellation
- Now, find the outer edge of the Big Dipper
- Draw an imaginary line in the sky that moves outward from the pointer stars to the North Star
- Stand facing the North Star
- If it happens to be cloudy, you can estimate the distance
- Begin to move in the appropriate direction

## 4. Start A Fire In Any Condition



About 100 years ago, pretty much everyone in your ancestral line knew how to start a fire. This was simply a necessary means to survival and everyone knew it. Of course, now things are different. In some ways, making fire is way easier than it used to be, and yet many people cannot make a fire anymore.

What we're about to tell you is hardly a secret, but it will make the difference between getting a fire lit and being left in the freezing cold. Always carry fire starting equipment with you. Whether you have matches, a lighter, or the ultimate item—a fire striker—you're going to need it.

We suggest keeping a fire striker with you at all times because it's going to be the easiest to use in harsh conditions. In fact, we're going to issue you a challenge. Go into the woods with your fire striker and get a fire started. Until you see how using one truly works, you'll never know if you've got the hang of it. Therefore, you might as well start practicing!

## 5. Provide Food For Yourself

Have you ever looked in the woods to try to determine what can provide you with nourishment? Unless you know about what type of mushrooms not to touch or what animals have the toughest skin, how can you hope to survive?

Providing food for yourself can mean a lot of things. Ultimately, it doesn't matter if you fish, hunt,

look for edible mushrooms, etc. The only thing that really matters is that you can find enough of whatever you're looking for to fill up your stomach.

Oh, and you don't just have to do it once. No, you're going to have to know how to find food two to three times a day, every single day, for the rest of your life. Or at least you'll need to learn how to do this once the SHTF, anyway.

This requirement would have been a breeze to your ancestors, but you're going to have to work a bit harder if you truly want to survive. Our current generation has had food access handed to us. Most of us go to a grocery store for food and we have no idea how our food is made. You're going to have to get over this way of living if you're ever going to have a hope of making it on your own.

## 6. How To Prepare A Mammal



Unless you're a vegetarian or vegan, you're going to need to find out how to prepare an animal before you can eat it. For example, you'll need to know how to bleed an animal out before you can go any further. With a deer, you'll slice their neck and then wait until their body is mostly drained of blood before moving forward.

Each animal provides a bit of a puzzle the first time you kill it. What's the perfect way to prepare this specific mammal? Where exactly should you make incisions and how you remove the parts of the animal that you don't want are just two of the many questions you'll have to answer.

Instead of trying to explain it all here (which we don't have enough words to do), we're going to suggest that you supplement this reading with a book on mammal preparation.

## 7. Learn To Move Very Quietly

Whether you're going hunting or merely wish to travel undetected, it's critical to learn how to move very, very quietly. Most people in today's world no longer have the hang of how to pull this off. Animals can usually hear humans coming from a far distance, which is not going to help you if you're hunting.

Practice walking without making a sound. You can even practice with your family members by seeing if you can surprise anyone as you sneak up on them. Once you've got this trick down, you'll be able to startle your family members whenever you'd like—but don't do it too often, okay?

## 8. Learn How To Fish

Learning how to fish during the 21st century is less of a skill than it is a hobby. After all, there are tons of things you can buy to make it easier than ever. But what's going to happen when your boat GPS conks out, along with several of your other indicators? Furthermore, what's going to happen if you don't have any of your fancy equipment?

Improvised fishing is the skill you really have to learn. Can you catch a fish with some improvised bait? Do you have the patience to wait until a fish strikes your line?





Although improvised fishing will typically take a lot longer than modern fishing, there's something really rewarding about it. You'll have the knowledge that you can catch fish without resorting to lots of fancy tricks, and that alone is worth a lot.

## 9. Wilderness First Aid



Can you provide basic first aid to someone in need? I hope so, because the next thing we're going to ask you to do is learn how to give wilderness first aid.

Imagine that you're in the woods with your best buddy. They've gotten hurt, but you don't have a first aid kit with you. Additionally, your cell phone isn't getting any service. What items around you can you improvise with? This is the type of stuff you can learn if you take a wilderness first aid class.

Even if you've already taken a first aid course, taking a wilderness first aid class will almost certainly teach you new tricks. And that's going to be a good thing after society falls apart.

## 10. Learn Different Knots

Have you ever thought about how odd it is that a few simple knots can allow humans to do things they never would have imagined, such as climb a mountain? Of course, they also need to have physical skill, but without knots, they probably would never get a chance to climb.

Learn how to tie as many different knots as you can because each one could potentially save your life. We suggest starting out with the clove hitch knot.



- Make two loops in the line
- Slide the right loop over the left loop
- Insert an object between the two loops
- Tighten the ends of the rope to complete your knot

Pick up a book about knot tying and start learning!

## 11. Learn How To Use An Axe

If you're going to spend a lot of time in the wild, then you need to know how to use an axe. It's smart to take your time as you learn the ins and outs of your axe because it can become very dangerous. But if you end up in a SHTF situation, it could very well become your number one survival tool. Therefore, dedicate yourself to learning how to use an axe properly before you absolutely need one.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Society has made so many things easier, but it has also caused us to lose most of our survival skills. By learning how to do things such as use an axe, provide food for yourself, and calculate your position by using the stars, you'll reclaim some of the most essential skills for surviving after the SHTF.

Don't keep your newfound skills to yourself, either. Be sure to teach your family members how to do the same things, so that they also have a much better chance of surviving once society crumbles.



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