Preparing for the Inevitable - Part 1

By Dan Eden

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I have started to write this article many times before. I knew that I'd have to write it, but I hesitated because, by writing it, I am admitting that the calamity of events associated with 2012 has commenced.

As a writer for viewzone, I am exposed to all sorts of horrific facts and theories. It has made for some sleepless nights and confusion in my personal life when it comes to making plans for the future. Like my readers, I want to believe that the dire predictions made by scientists and insightful observers are wrong. I've often used the analogy that writing about preparing for the "end" is like yelling "fire!" in a theater. But that's changed now. I can smell the smoke.

Misconceptions

I often get emails asking me what I am going to do and where I will be on December 21, 2012. While my answer is the same, I try to explain that the "end" is not a single event that will happen in one day, one month or even one year. It is a process of events -- both natural and man made -- that will compound to bring about a major catastrophe to our way of life and, sadly, to life itself. So, hopefully, on December 21, 2012, I will be where I have been for many months or years... and where I will be going very soon.

It needs to be said that not everyone believes that the "end" will be a bad thing. There are some people who feel that this will be a "transition" to some new reality -- a better one -- and that the "end" refers to our present way of life. They believe that our future will be less dependent upon material, technological and self-centered philosophies. In the words of songwriter, Joni Mitchell (Woodstock), we will "get back to the garden."

The "garden" idea is one full of hope and healing. We have come a long way from the Garden of Eden. The planet has been used and abused and certainly needs to be healed. Some type of great cataclysm would certainly do this. And it wouldn't be the first time.

The earth has had many mass extinction events. In retrospect, we can view these as both good and bad. The dinosaurs extinction was bad for them, but made it possible for mammals to evolve into humans. Even the ice ages fostered "survival of the fittest" and improved the intellect and stamina of our species.

I like to quote Nietzche who said, "If it does not kill me, it only makes me stronger."

But before we can enjoy the "new earth", we have to survive the calamity. In deciding where YOU will be, I have collected a number of emails that I have received and have tried to formulate some answers which I hope will be helpful.

Where to be... city or country?

While there is debate about the type of natural disaster that we could see, the general consensus is that you shouldn??????t be near an ocean coastline. Things such as meteor impacts and massive earthquakes can cause tsunamis. Most scientists advise being from 30 to 50 kilometers from the water.

If you live in a city, you would be well advised to have a plan to move out from all heavily populated areas. There are a number of reasons why this is a good idea.

- Scarcity of food: Most supermarkets will be depleted within a few hours of a major event. Restaurants will be closed as the owners and workers flee to be with their own families. People who live in the city and have no option to escape (i.e. no car, transportation shut down) will inevitably become desperate and violent. Hunger is a powerful motivator.
- Anarchy: While food riots break out, civil services such as police and fire departments will break down and become ineffective.

  We saw this during hurricane Katrina. Police and fire workers felt obligated to take care of their own families

and failed to report for duty. Widespread looting ensured, mostly perpetrated by ordinary citizens who were just trying to survive. Even nursing home and hospital workers abandoned the sick and dying.

- Restriction of movement: Once there is a breakdown of civil order you will not be able to go outside of your residence after dark. Desperate people will know that you are most vulnerable then.

  Although the percentage of pathological rapists, murderers and sadists is small, in a dense city population there are enough of these types of people to cause alarm. Without the consequences of law enforcement, they will feel little to inhibit acting on their impulses. Even good people, feeling the need to survive, will be driven to break-ins, robberies and assaults.

  You will likely stay inside your abode at night. And when your resources are all consumed, you will likely join the other "good people" outside, doing whatever is needed to survive.

Circle the Wagons

Lots of people, in the face of hurricanes or fires, are reluctant to leave their dwellings because their "stuff" is there. Some have elderly family members or even pets that can make moving a real problem. So they decide to stay where they are.

An analogy can be found in the days of the covered wagons on the Oregon Trail. Each wagon was a home unto itself, with limited supplies and often carrying women, elderly and children. When they were facing impending attack, either by the elements, high wind, dust storms or even Indian attacks, they found safety in numbers.

The wagons would be arranged in a circle [**above**] while the family groups collectively fought off the enemy and shared their resources.

This same method can be effective in a city environment also. Instead of wagons, city blocks, apartment buildings or even sections of residential complexes can find strength by banding together. But it requires a plan and often some type of leadership role to organize and assign duties for protecting the perimeter (i.e. who is allowed inside?) and distributing the resources. Although it can be done, it is extremely difficult. City dwellers tend to be individualistic and a bit paranoid of their neighbors even in the best of times.

Green Acres

Living in the country is better than in the city -- but it has some problems also. The one that tops the list has to do with all the city people who decided at the last minute to move to the country!

Country dwellers may initially escape the mayhem of urban anarchy, roaming hungry gangs and looting, but eventually their isolated sanctuary will become the target of these same types of people. The goal of the country invaders is likely to be more than robbery or a quick meal. They may wish to take over the residence -- if only because there is no other option for their survival.

Being isolated means that law enforcement is slow to respond, so survival in the country means that, in addition to securing food and water, some type of arms (guns) will be needed. This may not feel right for many people, but a group of hungry and desperate men with knives, invading your country home and harming your wife and kids will soon make you change your mind.

Man's Best Friend

One of the best things you can have in the country is a dog. They have an uncanny ability to "smell" the intent of a stranger. This is important because many of the people who will try to invade your country dwelling may look perfectly normal. I'm going to include some excellent advice from an internet blogger, Ferfal, who reported about these things during the social and economic decay in Argentina.

> **"Those that want to harm you/steal from you don't come with a pirate flag waving over their heads. Neither do they start shooting at you 200 yards away.**
>
> **They won't come riding loud bikes or dressed with their orange, convict just escaped from prison jump suits, so that you can identify them the better. Nor do they all wear chains around their necks**

and leather jackets. If I had a dollar for each time a person that got robbed told me "They looked like NORMAL people, dressed better than we are", honestly, I would have enough money for a nice gun. There are exceptions, but don't expect them to dress like in the movies.

A man with a wife and two or three kids can't set up a watch. I don't care if you are SEAL, SWAT or John Freaking Rambo, no 6th sense is going to tell you that there is a guy pointing a gun at your back when you are trying to fix the water pump that just broke, or carrying a big heavy bag of dried beans you bought that morning.

The best alarm system anyone can have in a farm are dogs. But dogs can get killed and poisoned. A friend of mine had all four dogs poisoned on his farm one night, they all died. After all these years I learned that even though the person that lives out in the country is safer when it comes to small time robberies, that same person is more exposed to extremely violent home robberies. Criminals know that they are isolated and their feeling of invulnerability is boosted. When they assault a country home or farm, they will usually stay there for hours or days torturing the owners. I heard it all: women and children getting raped, people tied to the beds and tortured with electricity, beatings, burned with acetylene torches. Big cities aren't much safer for the survivalist that decides to stay in the city. He will have to face express kidnappings, robberies, and pretty much risking getting shot for what's in his pockets or even his clothes.

So, where to go? The concrete jungle is dangerous and so is living away from it all, on your own. The solution is to stay away from the cities but in groups, either by living in a small town-community or sub division, or if you have friends or family that think as you do, form your own small community. Some may think that having neighbors within "shouting" distance means loosing your privacy and freedom, but it's a price that you have to pay if you want to have someone to help you if you ever need it.

To those that believe that they will never need help from anyone because they will always have their rifle at hand, checking the horizon with their scope every five minutes and a first aid kit on their back packs at all times.... Grow up."

Preparing for the Inevitable -- Part 2

We appreciate your comments and suggestions in this series. Please reply using the link below:

The Bug Out Bag!

Reader's Comments:

Hi Dan,

Good that you are bringing this need for readiness to the public. You will not find the media discussing this because they are really not in the "information" business. They are rather in the advertising business. This kind of needed talk doesn't set well with selling automobiles.

But I am writing because you maybe have forgotten a very important thing that everyone should be doing *right now*! I'm speaking about what is called a "bug out bag."

Sure, you should think about the future, where you will go and who you will be with. But life sometimes throws quick punches at us and it may be that you have no time to make elaborate plans... Maybe you live down near the Gulf of Mexico and a toxic gas cloud from the oil spill is heading to your neighbohood... or maybe you turn on the news and learn that Israel has nuked Iran and they retaliated with more nukes and the whole damned world is going crazy. This is what a bug out bag is for.

You need something that you can have ready to grab as you are running out your door. Each person in your family should have one. Preferably this is a backpack -- something you can strap on your back because you may need your arms and hands to climb or help others. Inside the bag you should have everything you need to survive for three days -- at least.

Many people have given lots of thought to what you should have in your bag. This has come from experience, so the list is something you need to consider seriously:

- Enough food and water to last for seventy two hours. This includes: Water for washing, drinking and cooking -- 2 litres per person per day. You might want to save your old soda bottles and keep them filled.
- Non-perishable food. This can be nutritious things like beef jerky or protein bars... stuff you can eat on the run.
- Water purification supplies. You will eventually run out of your water, or it will be too heavy to carry. So you should get some water purification tablets.
- Cooking supplies.You can find some small compact items at a surplus store. You just need to be able to boil a cup of water (maybe some instant coffee to avoid that frontal headache?) or cook something in a small fry pan. These are usually made from aluminum and are light weight. Remember, you're not going to use them for a long time. They they just need to help you for a few days.
- Cutlery and cups/dishes. Again, a surplus store is good for these... or you may have items in your kitchen that suffice.
- A first aid kit. Remember that accidents happen, so things to cover cuts and scratches are good, some antibiotic cream and aspirin are a must. Don't forget any medication that you take and things like toothpaste, toothbrush, razors, tweezers (for slivers) and scissors, etc.
- Fire starting tool (i.e. matches, ferrocerium rod, lighter, etc.)
- A disaster plan including location of emergency centers, phone numbers, rallying points, possible evacuation routes etc. Think ahead and be specific for your location.
- Changes of clothes in case the ones you are wearing become wet or contaminated.
- Some large, thick plastic garbage bags. They can be used as a poncho or can be handy to keep your stuff from getting wet in a flood.
- A good flashlight and some extra batteries.
- A roll od duct tape! This has so many uses that it is imperative!
- A battery or crank operated radio so you can listen to any Civil Defense broadcasts.
- Firearms and appropriate ammunition. You just never know...
- Cash. Remember the ATM may not be functional. Have small bills (about $100 worth) for buying food and slamm items you may need, but also it is a good idea to have a couple of larger bills ($100) tucked away somewhere, if you can afford it.
- A good knife, either a folding one of a fixed blade. And it should be sharp.

These are the basics. Add more depending on what you can carry and what you anticipate in your own particular area of the world. Passports and important identification papers should be in a water proof pouch... think I thought of everything.

Please post this, Dan, as it is really important.

M.S.

Some believe we are already circling the 2012 drain, what with the Gulf oil spill, the Haiti earthquake, the financial meltdown, etc...

There have been many events in the last 200 years much more significant than anything we are seeing now (krakatoa eruption, Carrington event, WWII, 1918 pandemic, The Great Deprssion, etc). The world did not end then, so why should the recent, less significant, events spell an imminent doomsday?

J.P.S.