

Being Mobile and Stay or Go



Many people either don't want to think about having to be mobile during a crisis, and less want to consider the possibility of having to vacate their homes, or they feel there is really no need to consider these possibilities. These people would be making one of the most potentially deadly mistakes possible if they avoid these issues.

First off reality and logic tell us that we may very well need to be mobile at some point during a crisis, if for no other reason than to get home to shelter-in-place.

Second no matter how safe we think our homes are, there is one thing that happens more frequently than we would like to admit – fire. In 2010 alone there was:

- One structure fire was reported every 65 seconds.
- One single-family home structure fire was reported every 85 seconds.
- One civilian fire death occurred every 2 hours and 49 minutes.



Going Mobile

Our Crisis Plan must consider the **worst** possible scenario when it comes to mobility:

- We are **not** home when the crisis occurs or **must vacate** our retreat
- Our usual route is **not** available
- Our usual modes of transportation are **not** available – we are **On Foot, with what we have with us at the time the crisis hit.**

Suddenly in a worst case scenario that 5 to 10 minute drive from the grocery store to home is a 5 mile long obstacle course - a life threatening gauntlet!

It is far easier to adjust a plan based on this worst case scenario that has us on foot, for a “good case” scenario where our vehicles and or routes are available - than it is to adjust a plan that has our vehicles and routes available and then we are faced with the “worst case” reality of being on foot!!

Failure to accept and plan for this IS hazardous to your health and **MAY** cause injury or death!



Bug-In or Bug-Out?

It just rubs us humans the wrong way to have to leave our homes and possessions behind to some unknown thing.

At a high level there are only two things that could entice us to vacate our homes:

- Some impending danger that we see or sense. IE: Our home is no longer available and or safe.
- An evacuation notice from an authoritative entity.

In the case of Evacuation Notices we must understand the following:

If a government entity suggests or orders an evacuation, they have **waited until the last possible moment to issue the order – so don't tally!** We the evacuees, are solely responsible to pack and go; **not** our employer (even if they tell you to stay); **not** the government and **not** our neighbor or in-laws – **You Alone Are Responsible for You and Yours.**



United States has *two* primary types of Evacuation Notices

Some states may have more, some less ... For example, New Mexico only has suggested evacuation notices.

Mandatory - Mandatory **does not** mean you are dragged out of your home kicking and screaming. Although the President can enact an executive order that gives the local authorities the power to drag you out of your home, the few times this has been done the local authorities DID NOT do so. When asked why; they stressed that they did not have enough time or manpower to go back and force people to evacuate; they barely had enough time and manpower to be sure everyone **got** the evacuation order in the first place.

Suggested – This means that the authorities are not more than 50% sure that this area will be affected by the pending crisis. This usually occurs in large scope events, like hurricanes and the authorities are already maxed out dealing with the mandatory evacuation area.

Then just to make things interesting, the United States also has this “**No Notice Evacuation Notice**” that can be issued at *any time* by *any* Department of Transportation entity. This is not considered an official evacuation notice, however it is present and has been utilized when there was some kind of transportation accident that involved airborne chemicals. This category of evacuation notice is *not* to be confused with the National Security “**Airborne Toxin Evacuation Notice**”, which *must* be issued by a federal government entity (DoE, EPA, NSA, CDC, DHS, etc).



After Crisis Protocols (Search, Rescue & Emergency Assistance)



Immediately following a crisis all the “helper” entities have a large complex job to perform in the stricken area. ***They must be able to find and rescue the greatest number of people utilizing limited; funds, manpower, equipment, in the shortest timeframe possible.***



Because of this the following protocol was created:

- An area that was **Never** issued an evacuation notice of any kind, and was devastated, will be addressed **First**.
- An area that received a **Suggested** evacuation notice will be addressed **Second**.
- An area that received a **Mandatory** evacuation notice will be addressed **Last**.



One of the first elements to needed to determine if you should stay put or bug-out is Awareness.

To be aware, take advantage of every possible type of news communication in your area: Newspapers, TV, Radio, HAM, CB, Scanners, internet, weather alerts and the like. Keep your eyes and ears open and be alert to what is going on around you. The more sources of information, the faster you will be able to determine if you can stay put or must bug-out.

The more information you have and the more aware you are, the better you can “read the signs” around you.



Some Additional Signs to keep aware of are:

- A rush or long lines at banks, gas stations or grocery, home improvement, sporting, camping and gun stores
- An increase in police, fire, rescue and military personnel and or vehicles

- An increase in barrel & barricades and trucks
- Ambulances and medical personnel are flocking to the hospitals
- Long term care facilities appear to be removing residents
- There is more traffic leaving your area than approaching



Six Elements Needed to Make a Good Decision



Stay? Go? 12 Key Questions

- Which choice gives you the best chance of survival for the scenario at hand? (this is not always clear)
- How well prepared are you to shelter in place?
- What exactly are you prepared for? (a forest fire is far different from local rioting)
- Have evacuation orders been given or suggested?
- What is the nature and probable duration of the threat?
- **Will staying put change anything as far as “saving your home”?**
- Where will you go and how will you get there?
- Do you own a bug out location or have double up plans or no place to go at all?
- Will you be able to help your community if you stay?
- **What will the impact of staying or going be on your family, can they handle what you can?**
- What can you take with you and what must you leave behind?
- If you leave what exactly is waiting for you at your destination?

In the second such podcast (see links below) an additional question was added: **Logic vs. Emotion**

The two questions in **red** are the most important and “*What will the impact of staying or going be on your family, can they handle what you can*” is a double edged question:

- If you decide to stay behind and keep your family with you; **can they handle the pending crisis as well as you?**
- If you decide to stay behind and send them on; **can you and they handle the possibility of never seeing each other again?**



Remember that ***the needs and agendas of governments are different than that of its citizens.*** They are not being cruel or mean, it is just the way things are.

It's your choice, your responsibility and yours alone!



In order to determine if you should shelter in place or evacuate/bug-out I *highly recommend* that you listen to the two 15-20 minute podcasts by **TheSurvivalPodcast.com**. ***At the very least you and your family need to discuss the questions posed above.***

Bug In or Bug Out - 12 Questions to Ask - Episode-289 found at: <http://www.thesurvivalpodcast.com/bug-in-or-bug-out-12-questions-to-ask> It is about 30 minutes long and well worth your time.

"In the event of a disaster should you bug in or bug out (shelter in place or evacuate) is a big topic in many forums, email lists and among modern survivalists in general. There are times when the question is easy to answer and times when it can be difficult. The key is your life and the lives of those you love can hang in the balance of this decision so today we discuss 12 question to ask before you have to make the decision...."

Bugging In vs. Bugging Out – Answering with Logic @ <http://www.thesurvivalpodcast.com/episode-502-bugging-in-vs-bugging-out>

"Do I stay or do I go! Not just a great old song by The Clash but an ongoing debate and topic of discussion everywhere preparedness is discussed. Some are sure they will bug out, they have a plan to live off the land (good luck with that) and others just know they are going to guard the fort and hunker down. The reality is this is one of those issues that is very situationally dependent. The same person (if they act with reason and logic) will choose different answers. To help me formalize this process I developed 12 questions to ask yourself both in advance of and during a disaster to make this decision with logic vs. emotion...."

Some other great resources on this subject:

A great article called ***When to Bug Out: Knowing the Signs*** can be found at: http://readynutrition.com/resources/when-to-bug-out-knowing-the-signs_10012010/

Another good one is ***Heed the Disaster, Know the Dangers*** at: http://readynutrition.com/resources/heed-the-disaster-know-the-danger_25012010/ "...The Effects and Damage Could Be More Than One Envisioned ..."

Bug Out or Batten Down? Should you Stay or Go? by Captain Dave at: <http://www.captaindaves.com/guide/bugout.htm> is fantastic "...We all have a strong desire to protect what's ours. Regardless of whether you own the largest house in the neighborhood or rent a ramshackle shack, home is where the heart is, not to mention all the rest of your stuff! And Captain Dave knows you've worked long and hard to accumulate that stuff, so abandoning it and running for safety may stick in your craw. ..."



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