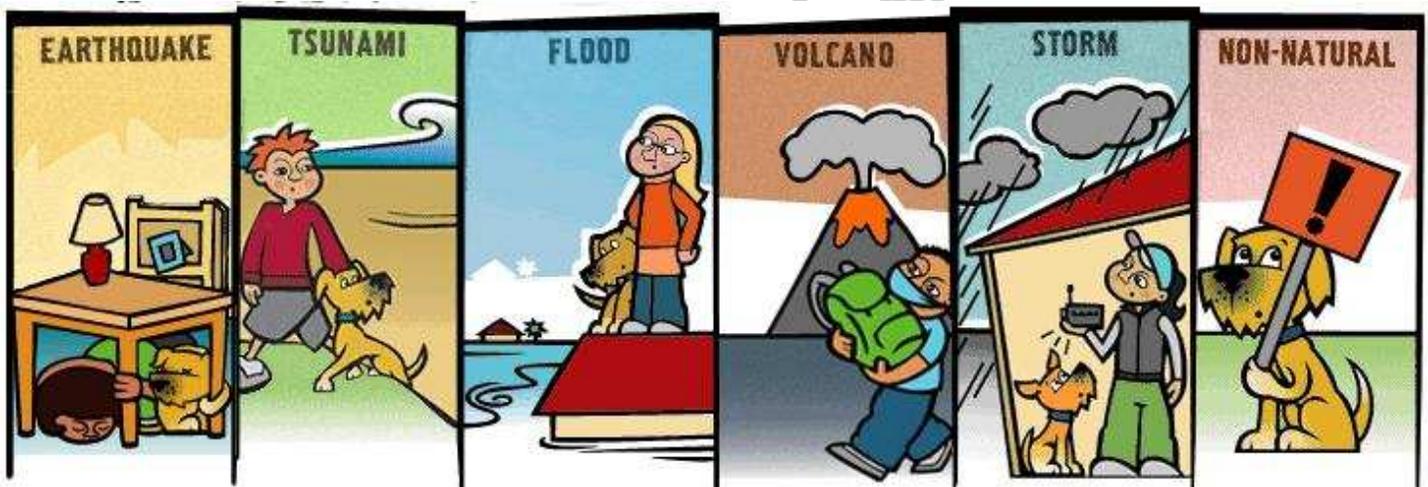


Gun Show Folly

I have been setting up a “Dare to Prepare” table at the gun shows in my town for about the last 6 years. This past week I had my usual “Dare to Prepare” table at a local gun show and I gotta tell ya I was appalled at what I heard while there.



Now understand that I sell nothing, I merely give out information and answer questions. For this show I had a military academy on one side, the ATF on the other side and FFL dealers behind me and all around. People would come by my table and say things that just threw me for a loop!!! Of all the towns, in all the states I have lived in, I am sorry to say that this one takes the prize as being the most apathetic and uninformed – the most unprepared ;-{



Here are some examples of what I heard all weekend and my replies:

“This is confusing, you have every possibility here and you’re not telling me what I should be most concerned with.”

Each person needs to evaluate what they feel they need to prepare for. No one, yet alone me, can tell someone what to prepare for unless they live on the San Andres fault or something. That is why my “What Are the Risks” display board shows just about every possibility from Amber Alerts, Oak and Corn blight, extreme weather to zombie attacks. I let each person decide for themselves.



“I live in blah-blah (suburban town to the major metro area where this show was) and all people have to do is come to my house, cause I have a garden and septic system and well water, etc.”

I would be careful about disclosing your location and preparedness details in an open venue like this gun show; because people will remember if the SHTF and look you up. You can't have more than 2 acres where you live and don't have enough food for all the people that may show up. Do you even have two blankets for each possible person? Preparedness is a personal thing, and it works best in a designated team or small group that plans and practices together. Just showing up on a friends doorstep with the cloths on your back, will endanger the homeowner and all the people who go that house. IE: Discussing this in the open, in public like this is endangering you and yours big time.

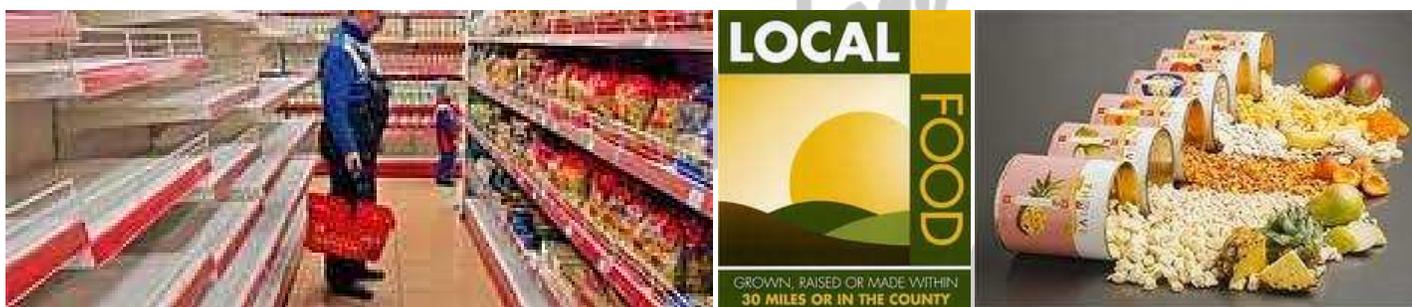


“I'm going to shelter in place and have a case of MRE's and freeze dried food, and my spouse has the guns and ammo part taken care of. I don't need to worry about go-bags or anything else.”

If you don't work from home, chances are you and yours will be out and about when the SHTF, so how will you get home to shelter in place if your usual modes of transportation are not available and or your usual routes are not available? How long would it take you to get back to your home from where ever you might be when the crisis hits? Who is most likely to be at home (if anyone) to defend your shelter until you arrive? Have you accounted for no electricity, water and or natural gas? How long

Take a look at the “*Even In New Mexico*” display. In the last 10 years this town and its suburbs has seen Bosque wildfires, flash floods in major areas of towns, drought, straight line wind damage in the millions, unexpected cold and snow that shut down the city for a day or two and the usual power outages and brown outs.

The state itself has seen major wildfires that have burned millions of acres and destroyed homes and businesses, floods, droughts and a natural gas shortage in the middle of winter. Things do indeed occur here. Historically New Mexico has suffered earthquakes (granted no bigger than 6.2), floods, tornados, wildfires, drought, plane crashes, water and gas shortages, large structure fires, mine cave ins and a slew of ‘lesser’ crises. There isn’t an area on this planet that does not suffer from some kind of natural or man-made (large or small) crisis at least once a year.



“I always cook with fresh food, so food stores would be a waste for me.”

First your ‘fresh’ food is probably imported, so at best it is weeks old from out of state, at worst up to a month old from out of country and at best a few weeks old from a greenhouse. If you are lucky it is organic, if not it is some hybrid or at worst a GMO product, either of which are loaded with chemicals at just about every stage of growth and process to point of sale. When it comes to meats; poultry is injected with saline solution to ‘plump’ it up and beef is usually injected with a red dye to make it look nice. Meat chickens and turkeys are a man-made breed that are so big breasted that they can’t mate by themselves or sit their clutches. On top of this most food, raw, produce or processed is grown, harvested, prepped and distributed to point of sale by a handful of corporations – even USDA organic. So considering that we are what we eat – what chemical are you?

Now if you won’t substitute some dehydrated, freeze dried, canned or frozen food ingredients in your soups, stews or goulashes; then you are voluntarily letting your diet be determined by a handful of corporations and you can bet your last dollar that they won’t be around to help you when the SHTF.

Ultimately you must decide if you want to be responsible for yourself or if you want some outside entities to not only, be responsible for you, but to decide for you too.

As for all those ‘helper’ agencies think about this: The next time you pass a fire station take a minute to walk in and say hello. Then ask them how often they see people injured or worse because they did not have a plan to get out of their burning home or didn’t replace the batteries in their smoke alarm or didn’t know how to use or get to a fire extinguisher.

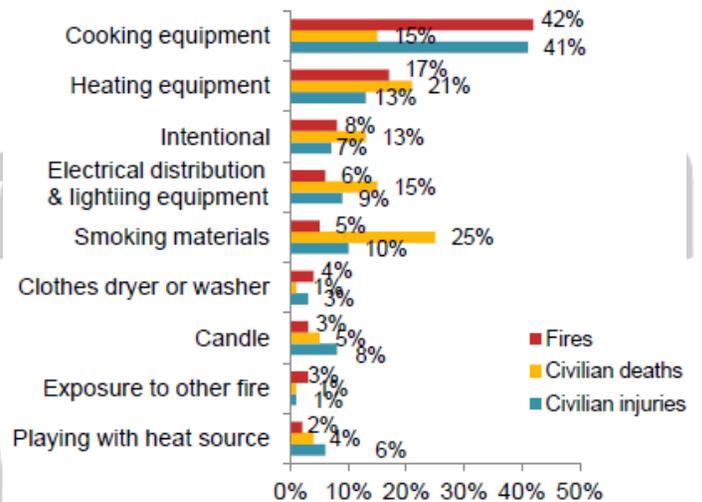


National Fire Protection Association
The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety

In 2010, there were 1,331,500 fires reported in the United States. These fires caused 3,120 civilian deaths, 17,720 civilian injuries, and \$11.6 billion in property damage.

- 482,000 were structure fires, causing 2,755 civilian deaths, 15,420 civilian injuries, and \$9.7 billion in property damage.
- 215,500 were vehicle fires, causing 310 civilian fire deaths, 1,590 civilian fire injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage.
- 634,000 were outside and other fires, causing 55 civilian fire deaths, 710 civilian fire injuries, and \$501 million in property damage.

Major Causes of Home Structure Fires
2005-2009



In 2010



A fire department responded to a fire every **24 seconds**.



One vehicle fire was reported every **146 seconds**.



One structure fire was reported every **65 seconds**.



One outside fire was reported every **50 seconds**.



One home structure fire was reported every **85 seconds**.



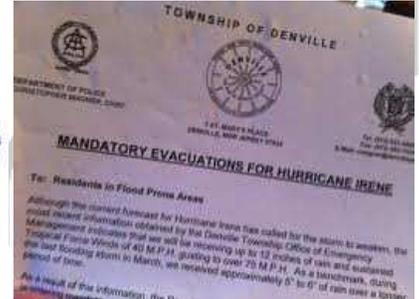
One civilian fire injury was reported every **30 minutes**.



One civilian fire death occurred every **2 hours and 49 minutes**.



Then take a look at the FEMA and Red Cross response times since they were swallowed up by DHS. Their target is to get on site in 3 days or less. Since being put under DHS (where they can barely sneeze unless they get the monies and permission from DHS) the average response time to be on site and helping is now 5 days at best. Next factor in that these agencies idea of “help” is not what most of us would consider help. Depending on your area the fire department has anywhere from a 5 to 20 minute response time and law enforcement usually arrives on the scene *after* the crime has been committed, not before or during.



Lastly realize that in most states in the US (and around the world) there are two kinds of evacuation notices: Mandatory and Suggested. Where mandatory does NOT mean the authorities come and drag you out of your home kicking and screaming. If you really want to get confused here in the U.S. there is this thing called “No-Notice Evacuation Incidents” (see http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/evac_primer_nn/chap3.htm) that can be issued by the Federal Highway Administration via the US Department of Transportation. On top of this *New Mexico only has a Suggested Evacuation* notice so that it does not run the risk of litigation if a mandatory notice was not issued.



Next realize that all those search and rescue entities have a protocol that is used to *leverage* their limited man power, limited funds and limited equipment to save the most people in the shortest timeframe.



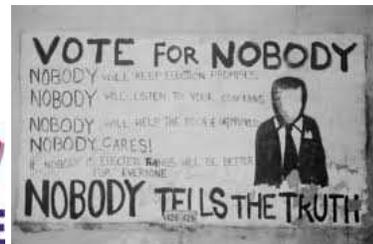
It goes like this: An area that was devastated but received NO evacuation notice is addressed first; the area that received a suggested notice and was still devastated is addressed second; the area that received the mandatory notice is address last. This is because most of the people that need help will be in the area that received no notice at all, the next largest group of people in need will be in the suggested area and the fewest people needing rescue will be in the mandatory area.



“Preparedness is just a government scam to have us running scared; there is no need for this town or state to prepare.”



I *tend* to agree that when the government is involved in preparedness it is a scam and a scam of the worst kind – tyranny. It has been like this since FEMA was created way back in 1979 and only got worse with the creation of DHS under the Patriot Act in 2002. Yet like any scam, some of what the government tells us to be prepared for and how, is ultimately true. So we can't just discount it as total garbage. Besides it is not the government's responsibility to 'help' us – it is our responsibility to help ourselves. This is where the tyranny comes in – if we 'let' the government 'take care of us' then we are forfeiting freedoms and liberties so that tyranny comes rushing in like a dam break.



Next, we are in a presidential election year and as such, there are all kinds of people out there telling us how we should feel and how we should vote. The 'dirty' politics game is alive and well and

match building codes for earthquakes; or if you fail to prepare and a crisis strikes and you demand or blame others for your unpreparedness, becoming a threat to others as well as yourself. These are the only way a preparedness plan can be wrong.

“If it is to be, it is up to me.”

William H. Johnsen

Depression-era realist/impressionist painter

So my little ending speech was a simple: “I am not interested in turning you to my way of thinking. That is your choice. However, I have to wonder why you bothered to stop and engage me in conversation. Was it because you want to be swayed or because you want to sway me?”

With that, some of the people who stopped to rebuff my ‘Dare to Prepare’ table subject, huffed and took off to the next table, some said ‘good question’, smiled then went on and others stayed and talked some more.

Bottom line - I hope I got every last one of them to exercise their brains a bit ;-}



Take Responsibility
Make a Plan
Have a Kit
Practice
Stay Aware

TNT