

# Roots Run Wide & Deep for New Prepper Movement

Basically the **New Prepper Movement** is a combination of historical events; from governance, living and production methods, to natural, human-made and metaphysical 'disasters' or 'emergencies'; and society's actions, reactions and responses to these various events. To visualize this root system is to look into what got us here ...



The concepts of civilian and governmental preparedness have been with us for centuries, almost as long as we have been curious about the future and what dangers it might hold for us. Humans have been "**Preppers**" almost from our very beginnings. We banded together and helped each other survive the world around us so we could grow and prosper.

When we formed settlements; we often built walls and moats to protect us, not only from all the predatory animals, but from invasion by others too. We observed the world around so we could *anticipate* natural threats to our lives. We even 'commissioned' patrols and watches to keep an eye out for any danger.

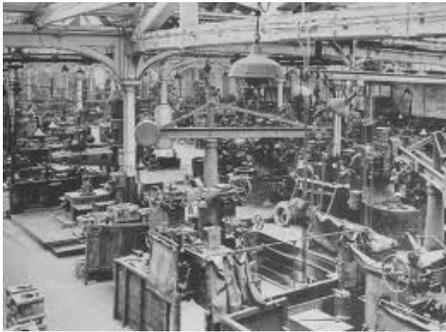
## From Drums, Bell Towers to Town Criers and Headline Hawkers



As early as 1692 the village of Bedford, New York kept a paid drummer on staff, which was charged with sounding the town drum in the event of an attack by the Native Americans. Much like today's wailing sirens.



## From Telegraph to Radio & Telephone to Television

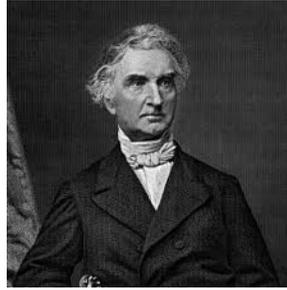


With the advent of the **Industrial Revolution** between the 1750's to 1850's we experienced changes in agriculture, manufacturing, mining, transportation and technology. This had a profound effect on the social, economic and cultural conditions of the times. We migrated to large urban areas and started to lose our ties to the land and began to rely on outside entities for our necessity to life items.

By the late 1800's to early 1900's concerns over the quality of our food spawned the birth of the "**Health Food**" industry and after a series of natural crises and the looming conflicts in Europe, we started to demand that our government take action and do something about all of the chemicals used in producing our food.

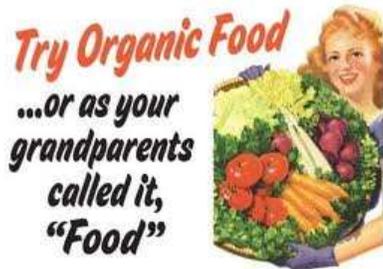


The beginnings of the **Organic Movement** can be traced back to the 1800's and the industrial revolution.



In 1840 Justus Von Liebig developed a theory of mineral plant nutrition. Liebig believed that manure could be directly substituted for mineral salts.

By 1897 the Church of Latter Day Saints had settled near Salt Lake City, Utah and was preaching self-reliant living and preparedness in preparation of the Second Coming of Christ.



The **Organic Movement** reawakened in earnest in the early 1900s in response to the shift towards synthetic nitrogen fertilizers and pesticides in the early days of industrial agriculture. It lay dormant for many years, kept alive by a relatively small group of ecologically and practical minded farmers.

These "organic" farmers came together in various associations like: Demeter International of Germany, which encouraged biodynamic farming and began the first certification program; the Australian Organic Farming and Gardening Society, the Soil Association of the United Kingdom and Rodale Press in the United States, along with others.



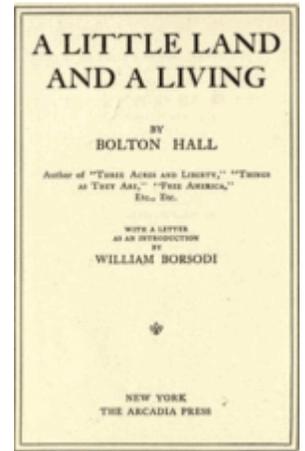
*"The highest manifestation of life consists in this: that a being governs its own actions. A thing which is always subject to the direction of another is somewhat of a dead thing."*

*St. Thomas Aquinas*

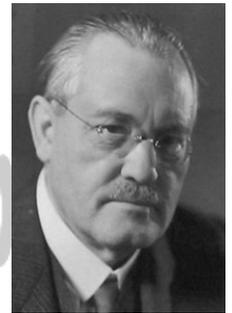
*1225-1274, Italian Scholastic Philosopher and Theologian*



Roots of the **back-to-the-land movement** can be traced back to the 1900's with Activist Bolton Hall, who set up vacant-lot farming in New York City and wrote many books on the subject. He is also credited in popularizing this movement.



1902 – 1924 Chemists Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch developed an ammonia synthesis process, making use of nitrogen from the atmosphere. This form of ammonia had already been used to manufacture explosives, so after the war, it was implemented into the chemical fertilization of agriculture. The Haber-Bosch process ushered in the era of fertilizers and the dawn of the chemical fertilizer age.



A predecessor to the Boy Scouts of America the *Woodcraft Indians* was started by Ernest Thompson Seton in 1902.

Another predecessor to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in the United States was the *Sons of Daniel Boone* founded by Daniel Carter Beard in 1905 in Cincinnati, Ohio.





In 1915 the **Coast Guard** is officially formed. Although the history of the United States Coast Guard goes back to the Revenue Cutter Service, which was founded on August 4, 1790 as part of the Department of the Treasury. The Revenue Cutter Service and the United States Life-Saving Service were merged to become the Coast Guard per 14 U.S.C. § 1 which states: "The Coast Guard as established January 28, 1915, shall be a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times." In 1939, the United States Lighthouse Service was merged into the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard itself was moved to the Department of Transportation in 1967, and on February 25, 2003 it became part of the Department of Homeland Security. However, under 14 U.S.C. § 3 as amended by section 211 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006, upon the declaration of war and when Congress so directs in the declaration, or when the President directs, the Coast Guard operates as a service in the Department of the Navy. **Motto: Always Prepared**



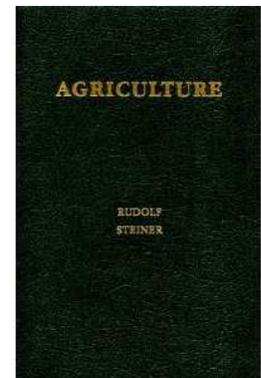
Congress then passed the *National Defense Act of 1916* to authorize an enormous increase in the size of the military and created *the Council of National Defense on August 29, 1916*. These actions lead to the fading away of the political *Preparedness Movement* and the beginnings of the US government's *Civil Defense* agencies, departments and programs.



The back-to-the-land movement also referred to '*distributism*', during the 1920s and 1930s in an attempt to find a third way between capitalism and socialism.



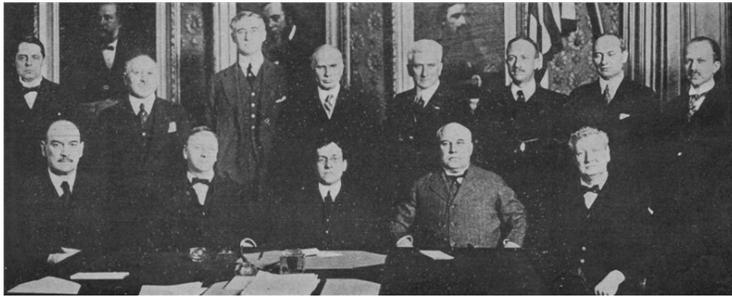
In the summer of 1924 Rudolf Steiner presented what has been called the first **organic agriculture course** to a group of over one hundred farmers and others at Koberwitz, now Kobierzyce, Poland. In Germany Rudolf Steiner's *Spiritual Foundations for the Renewal of Agriculture* (published in 1924), led to the popularization of '*biodynamic agriculture*', probably the first comprehensive organic farming system, that was based on Steiner's spiritual and philosophical teachings.



The *Great Depression* (1928 – 1930) that followed the Wall Street Crash of 1929 and the *Dust Bowl* (1931 – 1939) **becomes a popular citation and example for the need of individuals to be prepared.**

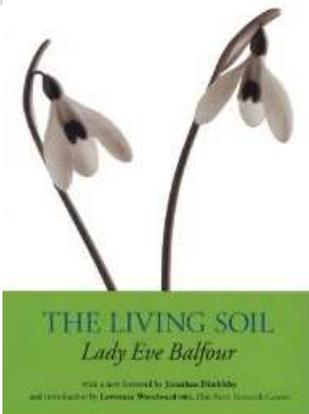
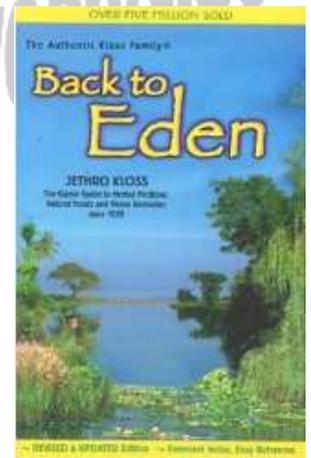


The New Deal initiated an amendment to the National Defense Act of 1916 and in 1933 resulted in expanded authority for CD, as well as the Presidential ability to declare a National Emergency and limited peacetime Marshall Law, as a means to authorize CD to move in and assist stricken areas.



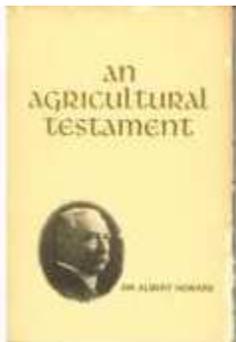
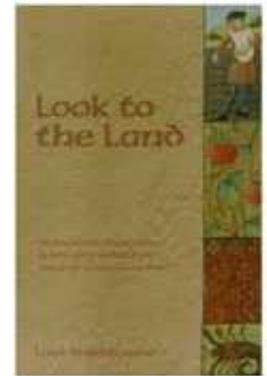
Seeing the 'writing on the wall', even before the official US involvement in WWII (with the attack on Pearl Harbor, HI) the Council of National Defense was reactivated by FDR and created the *Division of State and Local Cooperation* to further assist the Council's efforts. In fact, the *Civil Air Patrol* (CAP) was created just days before the attack on Pearl Harbor; where civilian pilots were commissioned to patrol the coast and borders, yet also had duties that included search and rescue missions as needed for war and non-war emergencies on home soil.

The concept of **Holistic Health** and "you are what you eat" took hold in 1939 when a book called *Back to Eden* by Jethro Kloss was published. In 2000 the book was updated and reprinted and is selling like hotcakes. Jethro Kloss was born in April 1863 in Manitowoc, Wisconsin and later lived in St. Peter, MN, where he died in 1946. Kloss was a Seventh Day Adventist, a religious denomination that is known (at least in the holistic health community) for its emphasis on holistic health, wellness, vegetarianism and 'clean' living (John Kellogg, also an Adventist, developed his breakfast cereals in the spirit of the religion).

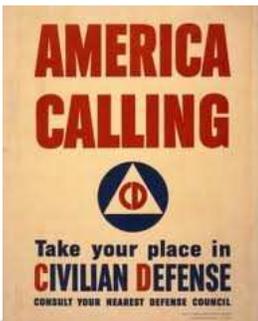
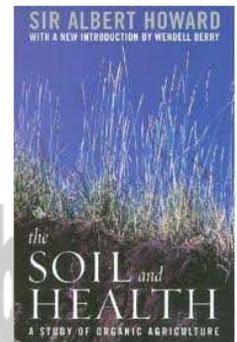


In 1939 the **Organic Movement** received a boost when the *Haughley Experiment* on farmland in England, became the *first side-by-side comparison of organic and conventional farming*. Four years later, Lady Eve Balfour published *The Living Soil*, based on the initial findings of the Haughley Experiment. It was widely read and led to the formation of a key international organic advocacy group, the *Soil Association*.

Around WWII (1939 – 1945) the term “**organic farming**” was first used in 1940 by Lord Northbourne (aka Walter James, 4th Baron Northbourne). The term derives from his concept of “*the farm as organism*”, which he expounded in his book, *Look to the Land* (1940) and in which he described a holistic, ecologically balanced approach to farming. Northbourne wrote of “*chemical farming versus organic farming*”. (<http://www.orgprints.org/10138>).



An *Agricultural Testament*, a 1940 book by Sir Albert Howard, was influential in promoting **organic techniques** and his 1947 book “*The Soil and Health, A Study of Organic Agriculture*” adopted Northbourne's terminology and was *the first book to include “organic” agriculture or farming in its title.*



It soon became apparent to the US government that the community/state configuration of CD was too burdensome and un-coordinated, so more federal level involvement was generated with the creation of the *Office of Civilian Defense (OCD)* within the *Office of Emergency Planning (OEP)* in the *Executive Office of the President (EOP)* on May 20, 1941.



With the onset of the Cold War (1945 – 1991) the populations of the United Kingdom and United States became increasingly concerned over government policies, threats of nuclear warfare and religious freedoms. *This spawned a proliferation of writings warning of social or economic collapse in both non-fiction and apocalyptic, post-apocalyptic fiction.*

After WWII US citizens started to rely on CD for more and more of their local disasters as well as voicing fears of nuclear holocaust on US soil, increased so **CD of the Cold War** era was born with the **1950 National Security Resources Board** (NSRB) report nicknamed the “**Blue Book**”. This became the model for CD for the next 40 years and served as the template for legislation and organization of what would become Emergency Management.

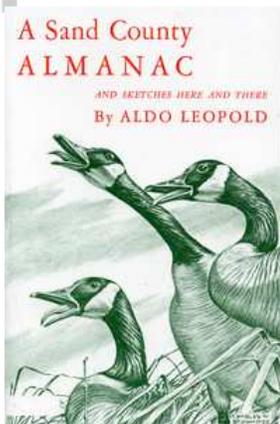
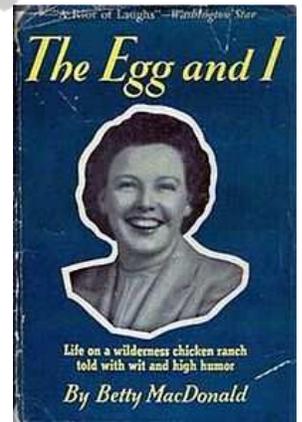


*“It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark.”*  
*Howard Ruff*



The *National Security Resources Board* allowed CD via the OCD, to organize about 10 million volunteers who were trained to fight fires, decontaminate after chemical weapon attacks, provide first aid and other duties into what was called the **Civil Defense Corps**. With the decline of the threat to US soil, the chores of air raid drills and patrolling the border declined, while their other responsibilities remained and were never dismissed.

There was again a fair degree of interest in moving to rural land after World War II. In 1947, Betty MacDonald published what became a popular book, *The Egg and I*, telling her story of marrying and then moving to a small farm on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state. This story was also the basis of a successful comedy film starring Claudette Colbert and Fred MacMurray.



Roots of the **back-to-the-land movement** can perhaps be traced to Aldo Leopold’s (ecologist and environmental activist) 1948 book *A Sand County Almanac*.

The Cold War era also produced **Civil Defense programs** promoting *public* atomic bomb shelters, *personal* fallout shelters and training for children, such as the *Duck and Cover* films.

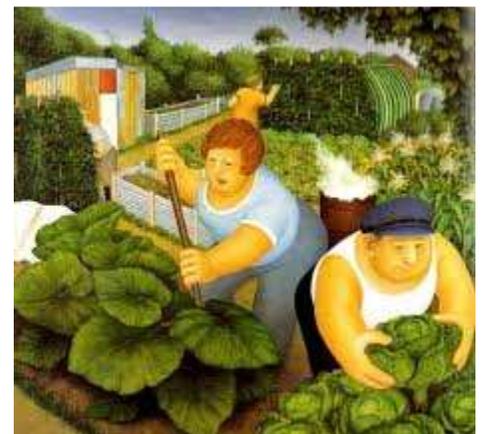


The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) has long directed its members to store a year's worth of food for themselves and their families in preparation for such possibilities. The current LDS teaching advises a three-month to 2-year supply.



In typical human and US Congressional fashion, congress never came close to funding the federal Civil Defense agencies as the "Blue Book" recommended. Throughout the Cold War, Civil defense was characterized by fits and starts and the responsibilities were passed through a myriad of agencies and specific programs were often boosted and scrapped. So many citizens took back this preparedness responsibility and another sub-culture was formed.

Also during the 1950's **sustainable agriculture** was a research topic of interest. The science tended to concentrate on the new chemical approaches. In the U.S., J.I. Rodale began to popularize the term and methods of *organic growing*. In addition to agricultural research, Rodale's publications through the Rodale Press, helped to promote organic gardening to the general public.



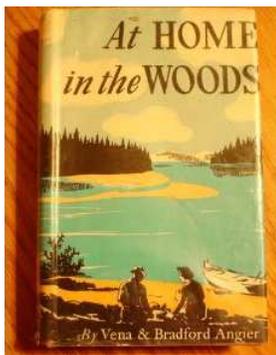
CD accomplished the "great education" of the American people on nuclear attack preparedness throughout the 1950's and into the 1960's. It also partnered with the *National Weather Service* (NWS) to assist in more localized severe weather event alerts,



notifications and disaster relief. It published many booklets, public service announcements and even a movie called "*Our Cities Must Fight*" which prescribed citizens to stay put in the cities to help rebuild them. As you can guess this did NOT go over well.



Our US government has always played an active role in emergency preparedness. Nuclear-raid drills were part of everyday life for school children in the 1950s and '60s and building bomb shelters was encouraged because of the nuclear threat.

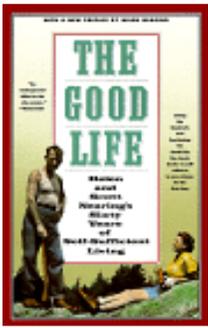


Bradford Angier's book, *At Home in the Woods* (1951) spawned new interest in **self-sufficient living**.

In 1951, Truman established CONELRAD (Control of Electromagnetic Radiation) Plan to address the necessity to have a quick and effective way to alert US citizens of the potential attack at both the local and national levels. CONELRAD worked through the Department of Defense and coordinated with CD.

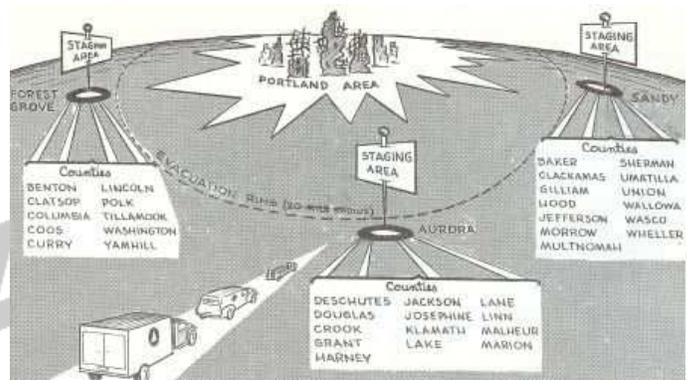
Under the system, a few primary stations would be alerted of an emergency and would broadcast an alert. All broadcast stations throughout the country would be constantly listening to an upstream station and repeat the message, thus passing it from station to station. After broadcasting the message, all radio communications would cease except for two designated lower power AM frequencies (640 and 1240 kHz). This was designed to prevent enemy planes from using transmitters as navigation aids for direction finding.





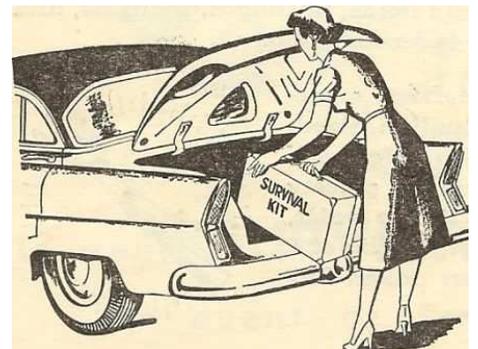
The publication of *Living the Good Life* in 1954 by Helen and Scott Nearing, marked the beginning of the modern day **sustainable living movement**.

The city of Portland, OR lead the way with the *first ever US emergency management style evacuation plan* and in 1955, their city government completed "**Operation Greenlight**" - a drill to evacuate the city center. Hospital patients were packed into semi-trucks, pedestrians were picked up by passing motorists and the city's construction equipment and emergency vehicles were rushed out to "*dispersal points*." The entire city center was evacuated in 19 minutes.



On December 8, 1957 CBS Television aired a dramatization of how a well prepared city might respond to an imminent nuclear attack. The show, *A Day Called 'X'*, produced "in co-operation with the Federal Civil Defense Administration", was shot in Portland, using City officials and ordinary citizens instead of professional actors.

The public was so thrilled with the efforts of Portland's officials and citizens that the concept quickly caught on and became a standard with the federal CD. This also led to federal backed metropolitan bomb shelters as strategic bombers reduced the time from launch to detonation from 3 days to something like 30 minutes, as well as disaster relief for other natural disasters.





By the late 1950's to 1960's CD at the federal level also came up with plans to ensure that towns, cities and the US could continue to govern and rebuild after a nuclear attack, called *Continuity of Government*. This resulted in city *Emergency Operations Centers* across the nation.

The **back-to-the-land movement** was fueled by the negatives of modern life: rampant consumerism, the failings of government and society, including the Vietnam War and a perceived general urban deterioration, including a growing public concern about air and water pollution. Events such as the Watergate scandal and the 1973 energy crisis contributed to these views. Some people rejected the struggle and boredom of "*moving up the company ladder*."



Paralleling the desire for reconnection with nature was a desire to reconnect with physical work. Farmer and author Gene Logsdon expressed the aim aptly as: "*the kind of independence that defines success in terms of how much food, clothing, shelter and contentment I could produce for myself rather than how much I could buy.*"

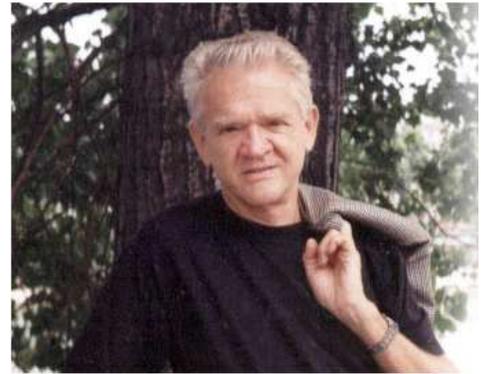


There was also a segment within the **back-to-the-land movement** who already had a familiarity with rural life and farming, who already had the skills and who wanted land of their own on which they could demonstrate that **organic farming** could be made practical and economically successful. This gave some backbone to the **organic movement** in response to the shift towards synthetic nitrogen fertilizers and pesticides in the early days of industrial agriculture. It lay dormant for many years, kept alive by a relatively small group of ecologically minded farmers.

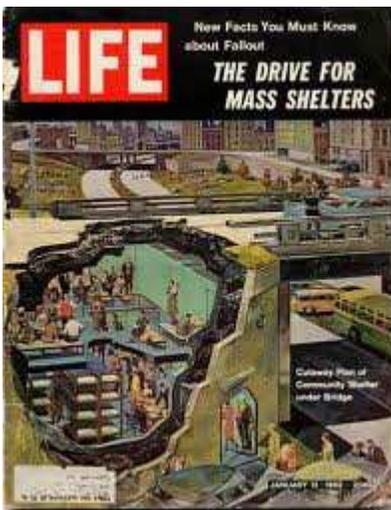
What made this *back-to-the-land* phenomenon of the 1960s and 1970s especially significant was that the rural-relocation trend was sizable enough that it was identified in the American demographic statistics.

The 1960's saw the rapid increase in the inflation rate.

Articles on these subjects appeared in small-distribution libertarian publications such as *The Innovator* and *Atlantis Quarterly*. It was also from this period that Robert D. Kephart began publishing the *Inflation Survival Letter* (later renamed Personal Finance). The newsletter included a continuing section on **personal preparedness** by Don Stephens for several years. It promoted expensive seminars around the US on the same cautionary topics and other defensive investing, "hard money" advocates.

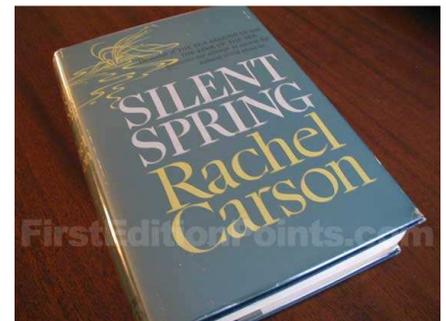


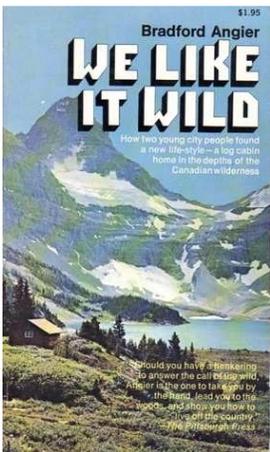
Robert D. Kephart (1934-2004)



In the 1960's JFK initiated a national 'fallout shelter' program to provide *long term* protection from the aftereffects of a nuclear detonation.

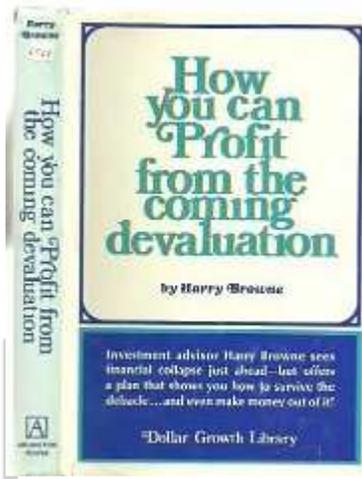
In 1962, Rachel Carson, a prominent scientist and naturalist, published *Silent Spring*, chronicling the effects of DDT and other pesticides on the environment. A bestseller in many countries, including the US and widely read around the world, *Silent Spring* was instrumental in the US government's 1972 banning of DDT. The book and its author are often credited with launching the **modern environmental movement**.





Bradford Angier publishes *We Like it Wild* in 1963, which reminded people of how far removed our civilization had moved from our “roots in nature”.

In 1963, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) created the **Emergency Broadcast System (EBS)** to replace CONELRAD and address the threat of ICBMs (which used internal guidance) The EBS served as the primary alert system throughout the Cold War and well into the 1990s.



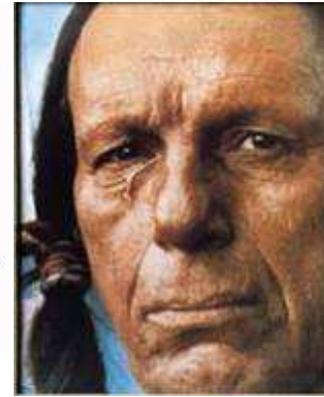
The increased inflation rate in the 1960s, the US monetary devaluation predicted by Harry Browne in his 1970 book *How You Can Profit from the Coming Devaluation*, the continued concern over a possible nuclear exchange between the US and the Soviet Union and the increasing vulnerability of urban centers to *supply shortages and other systems failures caused a number of thinkers (Survivalists) to suggest that individual preparations would be wise.*



The **survivalists sub-culture** also established their *first online presence* with BBS and Usenet (early internet) forums dedicated to survivalism and survival retreats in the 1970's.



For a time in the 1970s, the terms ‘**survivalist**’ and ‘**retreater**’ were used interchangeably. While the term *retreater* eventually fell into disuse, many who subscribed to it saw *retreating* as the more rational approach to conflict-avoidance and remote "invisibility". *Survivalism*, on the other hand, tended to take on a more media-sensationalized, combative, "*shoot-it-out-with-the-looters*" image.



Worldwide movements concerned with environmental pollution caused by persistent agrichemical increased attention on *organic farming* and it gained in popularity during the 1970's. One goal of the **organic movement** was to promote consumption of locally grown food, which was promoted through slogans such as "*Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food*".

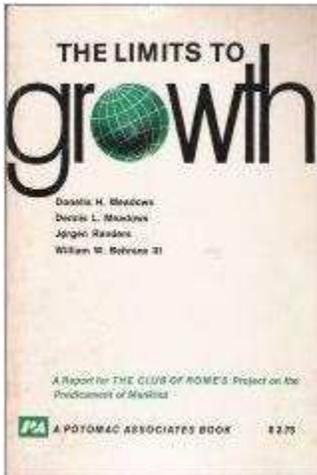


A teletype printer similar to this one disrupted many Saturday morning February 20, 1971

On February 20, 1971, the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) erroneously transmitted a national level EBS warning message. As a result, NORAD and its "Attack Warning" function were removed from the EBS. **Since then, only the President can activate the national level EBS (now EAS).**

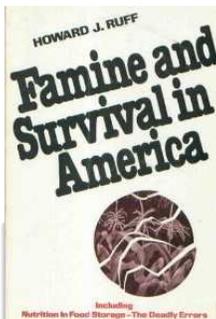
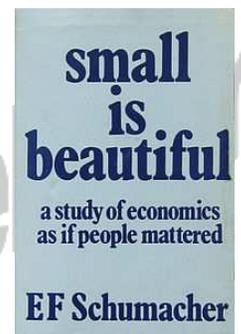
In 1972 a group of organizations (Demeter International of Germany, which encouraged biodynamic farming and began the first certification program, the Australian Organic Farming and Gardening Society, the Soil Association of the United Kingdom, and Rodale Press in the United States, along with other) joined to form the *International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)*. In recent years, environmental awareness has driven demand and conversion to **organic farming**. Some governments, including the European Union, have begun to support organic farming through agricultural subsidy reform. Organic production and marketing have grown at a fast pace ever since.





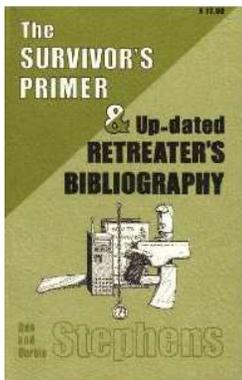
Donella Meadows wrote the international **sustainable living** bestseller *The Limits to Growth* in 1972, which reported on a study of *long-term global trends* in population, economics and the environment. It sold millions of copies and was translated into 28 languages.

Then in 1973 E. F. Schumacher published a collection of essays on shifting towards **sustainable living** through the appropriate use of technology in his book *Small is Beautiful*.



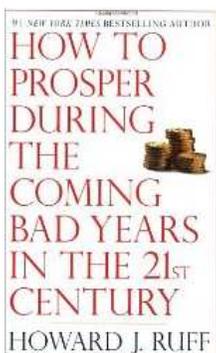
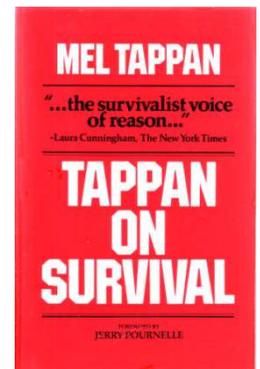
In the next decade Howard Ruff also warned about socio-economic collapse in his 1974 book *Famine and Survival in America*. Ruff's book was published during a period of rampant inflation in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis. Most of the elements of survivalism can be found there, including advice on storage of food. The book also championed the claim that precious metals, such as gold (such as South African Krugerrands) and silver, have an intrinsic worth that makes them more usable in the event of a socioeconomic collapse than fiat (and paper) currency.

In 1975, Kurt Saxon began publishing a monthly tabloid-size newsletter called *The Survivor*, which combined Saxon's editorials with reprints of 19th century and early 20th century writings on various pioneer skills and old technologies. Kurt Saxon used the term **'survivalist'** to describe the movement and he claims to have coined the term.



Preparedness consultant, survival bookseller and California-based author Don Stephens popularized the term **'retreater'** to describe those in the movement; referring to preparations to leave cities for remote havens or survival retreats should society break down. In 1976, before moving to the Inland Northwest, he and his wife authored and published *The Survivor's Primer & Up-dated Retreater's Bibliography*.

One of the most important newsletters on **survivalism** and **survivalist retreats** in the 1970s was the *Personal Survival ("P.S.") Letter* (circa 1977–1982) published by Mel Tappan, who also authored the books *Survival Guns* and *Tappan on Survival*. The newsletter included columns from Tappan himself as well as Jeff Cooper, Al J. Venter, Bill Pier, Bruce D. Clayton, Rick Fines, Nancy Mack Tappan, J.B. Wood, Dr. Carl Kirsch, Charles Avery, Karl Hess, Eugene A. Barron, Janet Groene, Dean Ing, Bob Taylor, Reginald Bretnor, and C.G. Cobb. The majority of the newsletter revolved around selecting, constructing and logistically equipping survival retreats. Following Tappan's death in 1980, Karl Hess took over publishing the newsletter, eventually renaming it *Survival Tomorrow*.



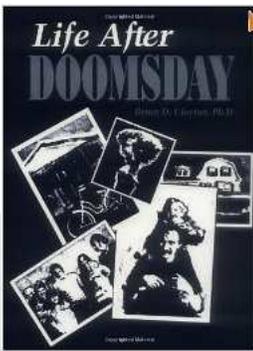
Ruff later published milder variations on the same themes, such as *How to Prosper During the Coming Bad Years*, a best-seller in 1979.

Before the creation of **FEMA** on March 31, 1979 the responsibility for civil defense in the United States was shared between a wide variety of short-lived and frequently changing departments, agencies and organizations. This was proving to be cumbersome and in some instances redundant. So by Presidential Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978 and implemented by two Executive Orders; on 1 April 1979 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was born.

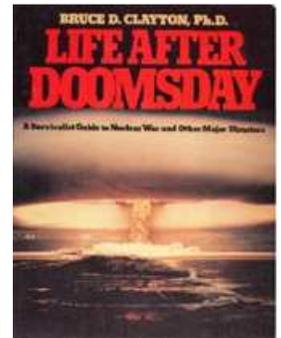


The primary purpose of FEMA is to coordinate the response to a disaster that has occurred in the United States and that overwhelms the resources of local and state authorities. The governor of the state in which the disaster occurs must declare a state of emergency and formally request from the president that FEMA and the federal government respond to the disaster. FEMA also provides these services for territories of the United States. The only exception is when an emergency and/or disaster occurs on federal property or to a federal asset, for example, the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, or the Space Shuttle Columbia in the 2003 return-flight disaster. In essence - Disaster Relief.

*"What we anticipate seldom occurs;  
what we least expect generally happens."  
Benjamin Disraeli*

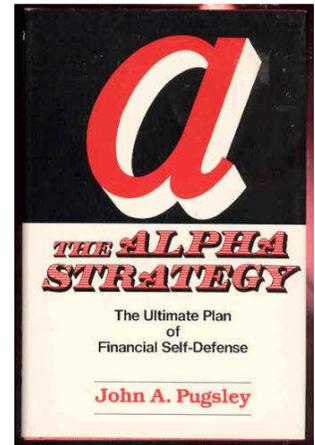


In 1980 the publication of *Life After Doomsday* by Bruce D. Clayton was published. Clayton's book, coinciding with a renewed arms race between the United States and Soviet Union, marked a shift in emphasis in preparations made by survivalists away from economic collapse, famine, and energy shortages (which were concerns in the 1970s) to nuclear war.



Additionally during the 1980's various farming and consumer groups around the world began seriously pressuring for government regulation of **organic production** to ensure standards of production

In 1980, John Pugsley published the book *The Alpha Strategy*. It was on the New York Times bestseller list for nine weeks in 1981. Even after 2+ decades in circulation, *The Alpha Strategy* is considered a standard reference on stocking up on food and household supplies as a hedge against inflation and future shortages. This book remains popular with **the survival/preparedness sub-culture** to this day.



Interest in the first wave of the survivalist movement peaked in the early 1980s.



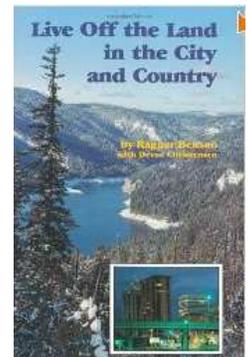
All the harping to governments by **organic growers and consumers** of the 1980's paid off and led to various legislation and certification standards being enacted through the 1990s and continue to date. Currently, *most aspects* of the organic food production are government regulated in the US and the European Union.

*“Despair is most often the offspring of ill-preparedness”*

*Don Williams, Jr*

*American Novelist and Poet, b.1968*

Ragnar Benson's 1982 book *Live Off The Land In The City And Country* suggested rural *survival retreats* as both a preparedness measure and conscious lifestyle change.

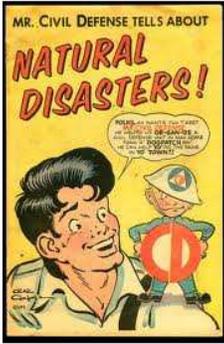


**The concept of widespread local volunteer emergency responders** was implemented and developed by the *Los Angeles Fire Department* in 1985. The Whittier Narrows earthquake of 1987 showed the need for preparing citizens to take care of themselves and their loved ones after a disaster.



In the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, residents of San Francisco's Marina District helped run lengths of fire hose from a fireboat to firefighters ashore after the hydrant system failed. Later, the Fire Department worked with the community to form the City's **NERT program** (Neighborhood Emergency

Response Team).



With the ending of the cold war (late 1980's to early 1990's) CD shifted to an "all hazards" approach utilizing 'Comprehensive Emergency Management' focusing on natural disasters, rather than nuclear attacks. Couple this with the advent of terrorism and other 'unstable civilization attacks', traditional civil defense took on new forms of civil protection such as 'emergency management' and 'homeland security'. This resulted in a decrease in public involvement and a decrease in government backing.

By 1993, the Federal Emergency Management Agency modeled their CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Teams) after the LAFD NERT's and had made the program available nationwide.

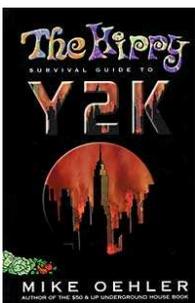


After conducting extensive tests of competing technologies, the FCC ruled that the EAS would be a digital-based automated system and use coding protocols similar to NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME).

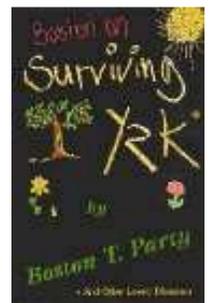
In 1996 a law was passed to replace the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) with the new fangled digital Emergency Alert System and EBS was officially retired in January 1998 (isn't there always an upgrade?). This resulted in a temporary (of several years) suspension of the mandatory tests.



The EAS covers AM, FM and Land Mobile Radio Service, as well as VHF, UHF and cable television, including low-power stations. Digital television and cable providers, along with Sirius XM satellite radio, IBOC, DAB and digital radio broadcasters have been required to participate in the EAS since December 31, 2006. DirecTV, Dish Network and all other DBS providers have been required to participate since May 31, 2007.



The mid-1990's brought about a new wave of concern over Y2K's computer 2-digit year issues. Many authors responded to this wave of concern, two of the most survival-focused texts to emerge were *Boston on Y2K* (1998) by Boston T. Party, and Mike Oehler's *The Hippy Survival Guide to Y2K*. (Oehler is an underground living advocate, who also authored *The \$50 and Up Underground House Book*, which has long been popular in self-reliant and survivalist circles.)



In 1999, the government set up a \$50 million crisis center to deal with the computer threats posed by Y2K.

(<http://www3.jsonline.com/bym/tech/news/nov99/y2k16111599.asp>)



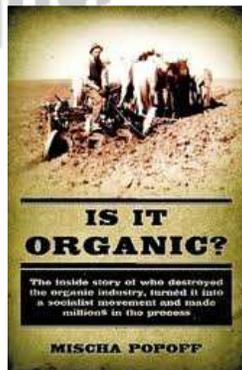
Interest in **citizen preparedness** peaked again and brought survivalism to the mainstream in 1999 for its second wave, triggered by fears of the Y2K computer bug. Of course when nothing happened, it quickly fell by the wayside.

*“To be prepared is to anticipate risk and to prudently act toward prevention.”*

*Wes Fessler*

*(born March 10, 1970 in Arcadia, California) is an American author.*

The 1990's to present has seen economic strife almost worldwide, wars and 'police actions', a UN push for 'world governance' and various terrorists actions that, in the US has resulted in amendments to existing Acts (Emergency Powers Act, National Security Act, National Defense Act) and or government reorganization via the *Patriot Act* which created DHS, and a *corporate oligopoly consolidation of the world's various key industries*: food, energy, technological, biological and distribution. All these actions coupled with the Mayan Calendar, Nostradamus and Newton's Bible Code predictions have spearheaded the **New Prepper Movement**. So much so, that the term "**Prepper**" started to outshine "survivalist".



In the 2000s, the worldwide market for **organic products** (including food, beauty, health, body care, and household products, and fabrics) has grown rapidly. More countries are establishing formal, government-regulated certification of **organic food**: 2002 in the US, 2005 in China (<http://eprints.utas.edu.au/895/>) and around 2006 in Canada, among others. Monitoring and challenging certification rules and decisions have become a regular, high profile aspect of activists in the **organic movement**. This all spearheaded the growing trend against the *corporate oligopoly consolidation of the seed industry*, along with the 'invasion' of GMO (genetically modified organisms) food products.

Page 1 of 14  
 Preparing  
 for Disaster



U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano reminded us in a 2009 speech ([http://www.ready.gov/america/npm09/downloads/Sec\\_Napolitano\\_2009\\_09\\_30.txt](http://www.ready.gov/america/npm09/downloads/Sec_Napolitano_2009_09_30.txt)) to the American Red Cross, that 90 percent of Americans live in an area where there is moderate or high risk of natural disaster. *"I think what we're experiencing is a kind of generational panic attack,"* says Neil Strauss, the former New York Times writer whose latest book, *Emergency*, is about how to survive in a disaster. *"We were born in a good time. We experienced booming technology and rising stock prices. And then all of a sudden, 9/11 happened, Katrina happened, the economy plunged. And it's like the rug being pulled out from under our feet."*



The third and most recent wave of the **Survivalist /Prepper movement** began after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and similar attacks in Bali, Spain, and London. Pair these terrorist acts with rising fuel and food prices and crumbling infrastructures and you have this new resurgence of interest in survivalism and preparedness. This surge appears to be as strong as the first wave in the 1970s (if not stronger) and has generated a plethora of new books written to cover a *wide range of possible disasters and how to survive them*.

*“I am prepared for the worst but hope for the best”*

*Benjamin Disraeli*

*(British Prime Minister & novelist 1804-1881)*

After 9/11 the US government once again urged, citizens to stock up on plastic and duct tape; *this time*, to seal their homes in the event of a biological or ‘dirty bomb’ attack..

FEMA continued as an independent agency, with a cabinet level position until 2003 and the creation of Homeland Security under the Patriot Act. FEMA, along with almost 30 other departments/agencies, became a dependent subdivision of DHS. *Authority, authorizations, funding and strategy were taken over by DHS*; which resulted in a shift of purpose from “All Hazards” to “terrorism”.



FEMA



By 2003, CERT programs were offered in 45 states.

CERT and Citizen Corps were transferred to the Office of Domestic Preparedness (now the Office of Grants and Training) in August 2004 as part of the re-organization changes brought on by the Patriot Act.

By 2004, despite the Y2K letdown, **Preparedness** is once more a paramount concern to many people, who seek to stockpile supplies, gain useful skills and develop contacts with like-minded people to learn as much as possible.

Also in 2004, the US government launches **National Preparedness Month**. It is a part of the committed effort to strengthen the United States' preparedness capabilities. The national preparedness architecture encompasses the full spectrum of prevention, protection, response, and recovery efforts to prepare the United States for all hazards – whether terrorist attack or natural disaster.

It is observed each September in the United States of America. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (within the Department of Homeland Security), Preparedness Month encourages Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools, and communities. FEMA's *Ready Campaign* educates and empowers Americans to prepare for, and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

This 'push' for civilian preparedness took on an 'urgency' after the failure of FEMA to act quickly to Hurricane Katrina. Katrina also prompted yet another re-organization of DHS and a shift of priorities (including funding) back to 'all hazards'.

September is...  
**National Preparedness Month**  
Get a Kit, Make a Plan,  
Be Informed and  
Get Involved



In 2005 Jim Rawles, former U.S. Army Intelligence officer and technical writer and a survivalist author launches **SurvivalBlog** (<http://survivalblog.com/>).

## A.N.T.S Americans Networking To Survive

2005 - September - The **A.N.T.S network** (<http://www.americansnetworkingtosurvive.org/>) was developed by Tim French while working in the gulf coast during hurricane Katrina. You can have all the stored preps in the world, but what are you going to do if a disaster wipes out your home and supplies? If you are a member of A.N.T.S, you are going to make a request for supplies and have them sent to your location.

A.N.T.S is a survival network of individual preppers called (ants) working together to provide other members basic supplies during disasters. This is done by relaying supply pods to any member that needs them.

When disaster strikes, Wouldn't it be nice to know neighbors were coming to your street with supplies for you and your family. A.N.T.S should be another piece of your preparation plan.

### Six reasons to join A.N.T.S

- 1 - It cost nothing and you do not have to disclose your location.
- 2 - Having one member in every city and town, will allow us to transport supplies without traveling far from home.
- 3 - When disaster strikes, relief agencies will bring supplies, but they will be supplying everyone. A.N.T.S will be looking for you.
- 4 - If you are traveling away from home when a disaster strikes, you will have a member close by to bring supplies to your family.
- 5 - Supplies are not wasted and will only go to members if requested.
- 6 - In an interview with Amanda Ripley, the author of *The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes—and Why*, Craig Fugate, the head of the Federal Emergency Management stated:

"To avoid "system collapse," the government must draft the public. "We tend to look at the public as a liability. [But] who is going to be the fastest responder when your house falls on your head? Your neighbor."

**Mission:** To provide members with basic supplies during a disaster.

**Goal:** To have one member in every city and town. This will allow us to transport supplies to members without traveling far from home.

**Who's in command:** You are, each member is autonomous and makes independent decisions based on the situation at the time, with the ultimate goal of survival for themselves and other members.

**How do we do it:** We do it by using level one guidelines for disasters in which people still have communication capabilities outside of a disaster area and level two guidelines for a wide spread disaster in which all communications except for short wave radio, CB, and walkie-

talkie have been lost.

During level one disasters we use the location map and transport supplies in a relay fashion to members in need.

During level two disasters we use drop points to leave messages for one another until communications can be restored.

**A.N.T.S will never ask for money!** All supplies must be provided by A.N.T.S members. The best way to assure a stable supply line is by recruiting more ants.

A.N.T.S is a volunteer network, **you are not required to act, but in the event that you do, you do so at your own risk** and are responsible for your own safety and actions during an incident. All ants should be prepared to take care of themselves and work in teams if they feel unsafe.

*“Forewarned, forearmed; to be prepared is half the victory.”*  
*Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra*



# FEMA

In 2006, a new logo was announced by the Federal Emergency Management Association and the old CD triangle logo was finally retired. The new logo features a stylized EM (for emergency management). However, a depiction of the old CD logo (without the red CD letters) can be seen above the eagle's head in the FEMA seal. The old name and logo continue to be used by Hawaii State Civil Defense, Hawaii State Civil Defense and Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense, Guam Homeland Security | Office of Civil Defense. The Republic of the Philippines has an Office of Civil Defense that uses a similar logo.



In 2007 the United Nations published *Sustainable Consumption and Production, Promoting Climate-Friendly Household Consumption Patterns*, which promoted **sustainable lifestyles** in communities and homes.

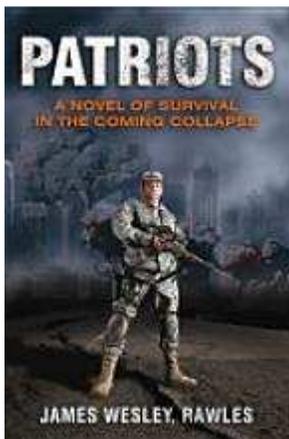
([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/household\\_consumption.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/household_consumption.pdf))

**SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION**

**Promoting Climate-Friendly  
Household Consumption Patterns**

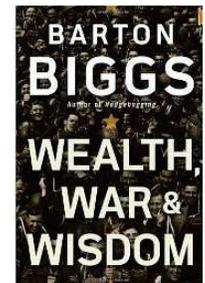
Prepared by the  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Division for Sustainable Development  
Policy Integration and Analysis Branch

30 April 2007



James Wesley Rawles, the editor of SurvivalBlog and author of the survivalist novel *Patriots: A Novel of Survival in the Coming Collapse* was quoted by the New York Times in April 2008 as saying that "interest in the survivalist movement 'is experiencing its largest growth since the late 1970s'".

Barton M. Biggs, the former chief global strategist at Morgan Stanley, warns in his 2008 book *Wealth, War & Wisdom* that we must "assume the possibility of a breakdown of the civilized infrastructure."



In 2008, Tom Martin, Founder, CVO, Co-Owner of **American Preppers Network**

(<http://americanpreppersnetwork.com/>) recognized his calling to build a national community of Preppers and to provide multiple online resources to help Preppers come together and share ideas, techniques and experiences with each other. To begin building this community, he contacted those who were already creating islands of Prepper information such as Riverwalker from Texas

(<http://stealthsurvival.blogspot.com/>), Jayce Hall and Phil Burns (<http://www.utahpreppers.com/>) from Utah (and a

few others across the country). He let them all know his goals and invited them to join in. Having started a blog and forum, Tom began expanding into other media areas such as podcasting, video and newsletters. He also began having conversations with lots of other people who were exploring survival and emergency preparedness online. Tom was instrumental in evangelizing the newer term “Prepper” and teaching people what it meant to be a Prepper. Many who now prominently call themselves a Prepper can trace their original understanding of the term back to Tom.

While working as a cross-country trucker, Tom continued to pursue building the APN and in 2011 took on new partners to help take the concept to the next level. In 2012, APN was re-organized and new plans were put in place to help expand the reach of the APN to fulfill the goals of bringing Prepping to the mainstream.

**Hugh Vail, CEO, Co-Owner**

Hugh is the Founder of Tomorrow's Harvest Food Storage, after Presiding over TH for 5 years Hugh stepped down as President for the opportunity to work at the American Prepper's Network.

As a Products Expert, Hugh has used freeze dried, dehydrated, canned, spray-dried, air-dried foods throughout his life and adventures hiking, rock climbing, scuba diving and trail running all over the U.S and internationally. Aside, from Hugh's personal experience with outdoor/prepper products Hugh's greatest strength is his ability to develop family preparedness solutions for Americans. Having personally produced millions of dollars in product sales, Hugh knows what works, what does not work and how to help families prepare properly.

Hugh is the Co-host of the most widely downloaded podcast in family preparedness that can be accessed on Preparedness Radio Network, Prepper Podcast (KPRN-DB), Off The Grid News Podcast, Prepper Broadcasting. The new name for his podcast is “Preconomics | The Economy of Preparedness”

**Phil Burns, CTO, Co-Owner**

Phil is a Software Engineer and Project Manager by trade and has spent 20 years building multiple back-end business systems and many websites for companies.

Phil grew up in a Preparedness Oriented family, living a self-sustaining lifestyle as a third generation, LDS, Prepper. He grew up farming, canning and learning to live off the land in the forests of Missouri, Tennessee, Hawaii and Utah. In early 2008, Jayce Hall approached him with the idea of creating UtahPreppers.com as a blog to talk about and teach Prepping. Over the next couple years, they produced hundreds of articles about Preparedness. Prior to UtahPreppers, Phil had been actively blogging elsewhere about building his self-sustaining farm and raising his 8 children in a preparedness lifestyle.

Shortly after Tom contacted Phil about helping to start APN, his youngest daughter was diagnosed with Leukemia and he basically went off-grid for about 2 years while taking care of her. Since his daughter was declared “cured” in 2011, Phil has come back on the preparedness scene and has been actively blogging, podcasting, youtubeing and writing a book on Preparedness. He also has been working on a TV show about preparedness for over a year called “Meet the Preppers” (<http://americanpreppersnetwork.com/2012/02/phil-burns-from-meet-the-preppers-on-animal-planet-discusses-the-show.html>) which aired on Animal Planet in February of 2012.

Towards the end of 2011, Tom asked Phil to officially join APN and become a co-owner of the effort. Since then, Phil has been working with Tom and Hugh to strategize and roadmap a way to bring Prepping to the mainstream and into every home in America. Phil currently oversees all technology for APN and is putting multiple new systems in place to improve the American Preppers Network.

**Glen Martin, APN Radio, CCO, Co-Owner**

Glen was raised at the base of the Cascade Mountain range of Oregon where he spent his youth as an avid hunter and fisherman. Knowing well how to live off the land it was not uncommon for Glen to head up the mountain solo on a weekend or week long hunting or fishing trip with little more than his rifle or fishing pole.

Always restless, after college where he earned his degrees in architecture and mechanical drafting Glen spent the next 30 years in several western states and Alaska as a design consultant. Now living in Northern Idaho Glen has settled but is still restless.

*Founder and operator of the **Prepper Broadcasting Network** (<http://prepperbroadcasting.com/>)* Glen now focuses his energies in sharing with others the importance of self-reliance and independence. When not behind his desk, or caring for the animals or splitting wood for the next snow you may or may not find him hiking in the mountains of Northern Idaho.



In 2009 James Wesley Rawles, author and the editor of SurvivalBlog was also quoted by the Associated Press as stating: "There's so many people who are concerned about the economy that there's a huge interest in preparedness, and it pretty much crosses all lines, social, economic, political and religious. There's a steep learning curve going on right now."



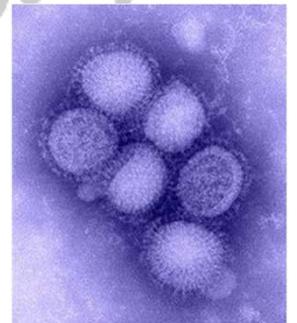
Gerald Celente, founder of the Trends Research Institute, created a 2009 study to identify a trend that he calls "**Neo-Survivalism**". He explained this phenomenon in a radio interview with Jim Puplava on December 18, 2009.

*"Chance favors the prepared mind."*  
*Louis Pasteur*



Mexico City Metro 2009

The advent of H1N1 Swine Flu in 2009 ratcheted up interest in survivalism even further and significantly boosted sales of preparedness books and made survivalism/preparedness more mainstream.



Electron microscope image of the reassorted H1N1 influenza virus.

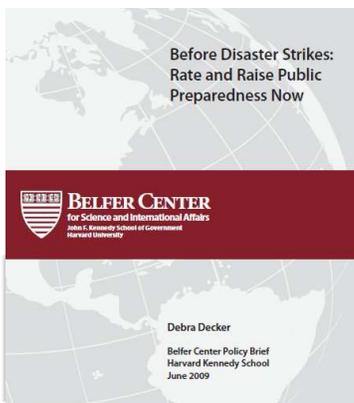
According to Joseph Bruno, New York City's commissioner of emergency management, "*We want people to understand that preparedness is an individual's job, too*". NYC polling has shown that more than 50 percent of residents are thinking about preparedness—up from just 18 percent in 2004. ([http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/downloads/pdf/biennial09\\_final.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/downloads/pdf/biennial09_final.pdf))





Emergency-supply retailers said in 2009 that they're seeing business boom; the Red Cross has had a surge in volunteers over the past year, up some 160,000 over 2008 and Craig Fugate of FEMA has encouraged Americans to get in touch with their inner survivalist (<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200909/fema>). "I encourage all Americans to take some simple steps to make their families more prepared, such as developing a family communications plan," he tells NEWSWEEK.

On June 2009 the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School reported to Janet Napolitano/DHS; Kathleen Sebelius/HHS; Hilda Solis/Labor; Arne Duncan/Education; Tom Vilsack/Agriculture and blind copied Craig Fugate/FEMA; John Brennan/HSCT that we needed to act *Before Disaster Strikes: Rate and Raise Public Preparedness Now*



([http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/19118/before\\_disaster\\_strikes.html](http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/19118/before_disaster_strikes.html)): "...The American public is not prepared for major disasters. That will prove costly, including to the federal government, as more and new types of disasters are expected to occur. The new Security Council Resilience Directorate - Preparedness, as one of its first initiatives, should task the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to work with federal and non-federal stakeholders and independent experts to:

- *Develop agreed measures of public preparedness, and*
- *Develop and execute cost-effective, innovative approaches for ensuring timely progress in preparedness.*

In the revamped federal agency performance measurement system, public preparedness should be deemed a high priority measure for DHS, as well as for selected other departments who need to be made federal partners in this effort. The new Directorate should monitor the establishment of and progress in these measures. ..."

(<http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/Decker-Public-Preparedness-Policy-Brief.pdf>)

*"People only see what they are prepared to see."  
Ralph Waldo Emerson*

As of 2009, the *Citizen Corps National Survey* revealed that only 57% of Americans surveyed report having supplies set aside in their homes just for disasters and only 44% have a household emergency plan.

[http://www.citizencorps.gov/downloads/pdf/ready/2009\\_Citizen\\_Corps\\_National\\_Survey\\_Findings.pdf](http://www.citizencorps.gov/downloads/pdf/ready/2009_Citizen_Corps_National_Survey_Findings.pdf)



### Personal Preparedness in America:

Findings from the 2009 Citizen Corps National Survey  
August 2009 (Revised December 2009)

In March 2011 The Examiner reported: **Gold and silver to be used as money if Utah Senate passes new bill.** "Gold and silver has been approved as legal tender, and for use as money by the Utah House of Representatives. The bill is now being passed to the state Senate for approval before moving on to the Governor. ..." (<http://www.examiner.com/finance-examiner-in-national/gold-and-silver-to-be-used-as-money-if-utah-senate-passes-new-bill>)

Also in March The Daily Economist reported: **North Carolina legislator seeks to make gold and silver the money of choice for state.** "North Carolina may become the third state to legislate the use of gold and silver as official currency as State Representative Glen Bradley has now introduced a bill for committee to permit such an activity."

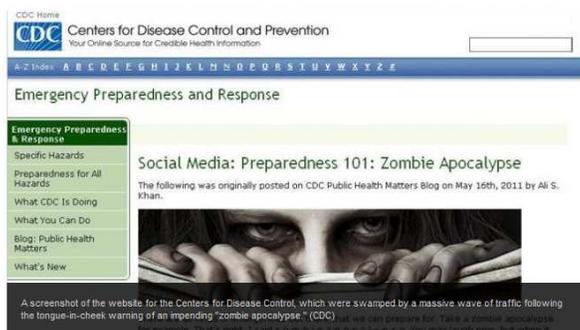
If the bill is accepted and passed by the legislature, North Carolina would join Virginia and Utah as the third state to allow the use of gold and silver as money. ..." (<http://www.thedailyeconomist.com/2011/03/north-carolina-legislator-seeks-to-make.html>)

In April of 2011 the Greater Cincinnati Health Council held the largest Disaster Preparedness Drill in that region's history. It was called "*The Shaken Horizons*" and was a four-day, multiagency, multi-discipline functional exercise.

And "Bob" (a retired engineer who said he designed airplanes, power plants and aqueducts for the government, who wished NOT to be identified) was quoted in the Colorado Springs Gazette on April 02, 2011: "...*There's a distinct possibility that some other country could wipe out our electronics and computers, and the U.S. infrastructure is not ready — it would take six months to rebuild a transformer, ...*"

### CDC Warns Public to Prepare for 'Zombie Apocalypse'

Written By Joshua Rhett Miller / Published May 18, 2011 / FoxNews.com



On May 23, 2011 the CDC announces their "Zombie Apocalypse Preparedness" program.

In an October 2011 Gallup Poll: **Self-Reported Gun Ownership in U.S. Is Highest Since 1993**

"Majority of men, Republicans, and Southerners report having a gun in their households ... Forty-seven percent of American adults currently report that they have a gun in their home or elsewhere on their property. This is up from 41% a year ago and is the highest Gallup has recorded since 1993, albeit marginally above the 44% and 45% highs seen during that period.

The new result comes from Gallup's Oct. 6-9 Crime poll, which also finds public support for personal gun rights at a high-water mark. Given this, the latest increase in self-reported gun ownership could reflect a change in Americans' comfort with publicly stating that they have a gun as much as it reflects a real uptick in gun ownership. ..." (<http://www.gallup.com/poll/150353/self-reported-gun-ownership-highest-1993.aspx>)

After many legal issues and congressional reports the **first national test of the new digital EAS system** was run on November 9, 2011. It *failed miserably* strengthening the FCC's ruling to continue to take advantage of existing coding protocols used by NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME). Currently EAS is a hybrid system of manual and automated broadcasting technology and protocols – *both* digital and analog.



On November 23, 2011 a local St. Louis CBS station reported:

**Survival Shop Reports Jump In Sales To People Preparing For "Possible Collapse"**

"A chain of three stores that sells survival food and gear reports a jump in sales to people who are getting prepared for the "possible collapse" of society.

"We had to order fifty cases of the meals ready to eat to keep up with the demand in the past three months," said manager Steve Dorsey at Uncle Sam's Safari Outfitters Inc. in Webster Groves. "That's not normal. Usually we sell 20 to 30 cases in a whole year."

Dorsey says business has been brisk since the spring uprisings in the middle east, as customers share concerns about political uprisings, the world economy and the future of the United States. ..." (<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2011/11/23/survival-shop-reports-jump-in-sales-to-people-preparing-for-possible-collapse/>)

And USA Today confirmed the St. Louis report on December 2, 2011 with:

**Guns are a big seller on Black Friday** "In addition to the sleek flat-screen televisions, smartphones, computers and cut-rate designer clothing, Black Friday's shopping legions seized on another hot item for 2011: guns.

Gun dealers flooded the FBI with background check requests for prospective buyers last Friday, smashing the single-day, all-time high by 32%, according to bureau records.

Deputy Assistant FBI Director Jerry Pender said the checks, required by federal law, surged to 129,166 during the day, far surpassing the previous high of 97,848 on Black Friday of 2008. ..." (<http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2011-12-01/gun-sales-up-black->

[friday/51554972/1](#))

In an interview with The Examiner on December 21, 2011 Gerald Celente stated:

**Gerald Celente expects bank holiday or economic martial law in 2012 predictions** "... Over the past month, Gerald Celente has spoken of the coming events and actions by the government, central banks, and the market in several interviews on numerous programs. On November 29th, as a guest with Lew Rockwell, Celente began his forecast with a bang as he stated the US government would issue a bank holiday, or some form of economic martial law within the first quarter of 2012.

"My belief, and this is going to be a top trend of 2012, is that, in the new year, they're going to bring down the gavel on the system." "They're going to pump it up, to soak every last penny out of the suckers, to spend money on Christmas junk that they don't need. And after that, after the Christmas holidays are over, then were going to get the bank holiday." "From Christmas holiday, to bank holiday." "Some form, whether it's that or not... some form of economic martial law... expect it, in the first quarter of 2012." – Interview with Lew Rockwell ..." (<http://www.examiner.com/finance-examiner-in-national/gerald-celente-expects-bank-holiday-or-economic-martial-law-2012-predictions>)

On December 22, 2011 The Examiner reported:

**Guns and ammunition is the new bull market** "With the standard commodity plays such as gold, silver, and oil falling due to a strong dollar, and systemic corruption in the markets after the MF Global scandal leading to failing confidence in the futures markets, the new bull market appears to be in more tangible items. That of guns and ammunition.

In a newsletter from December 22nd by ammo.net, sales of guns and ammunition nationwide have skyrocketed since Black Friday, and have not lessened throughout the entire holiday shopping season. ..." (<http://www.examiner.com/finance-examiner-in-national/guns-and-ammunition-is-the-new-bull-market>)

Also on December 22, 2011 ZeroEdge reported with great graphics:

**Are Guns And Ammo The New Gold?** (Infographic) "There are those who contend that when fiat dies, gold and precious metals will take its place. Then, a smaller subset out there, claims that it matters not who owns the gold or silver. All that matters is who is in charge of the lead. The following infographic from ammo.net may shed some much needed light on the topic, which as recent Thanksgiving record sales indicated, more and more people are starting to lock in on (and load). ..." (<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/infographic-are-guns-and-ammo-new-gold>)

In January of 2012 The Examiner went on to say:

**Preppers growing in numbers as odds of a global collapse increase** "There are a growing number of economic indicators over the past few months in the US that show Americans are joining in the prepper movement as concerns over a global economic collapse accelerate. Besides the failure of the EU to deal with nations such as Greece, Italy, Spain and Ireland over their massive debt issues, a new agreement on January 23rd between India and Iran over the use of gold for oil is facilitating a

new paradigm where the word is quickly moving away from the dollar hegemony in the global economic system. As these agreements increase, the chances of a dollar collapse, or outright rejection of US control over the reserve currency also increases.

Over the Christmas shopping season, the FBI received record numbers of background checks for gun purchases, and sales of disaster preparedness gear were top items bought by Americans during the holidays. Additionally, economist and trends forecaster Gerald Celente issued his trends for 2012 in late December, and number one on the list for the new year was a call for a bank holiday, or some form of economic martial law by the government.

In the subcultures of America, the majority of people attuned to disaster preparedness are ones living in the rural areas of the country as opposed to city dwellers, and people living in urban environments. A recent interview with a rural prepper on January 21st showed that those who are self-reliant are more apt to feel the need to prepare for longer term emergencies than those who rely upon society and the infrastructure of a city to provide for them. ..."  
(<http://www.examiner.com/finance-examiner-in-national/preppers-growing-numbers-as-odds-of-a-global-collapse-increase>)

Also in January Reuters reported:

**Subculture of Americans prepares for civilization's collapse**

"When Patty Tegeler looks out the window of her home overlooking the Appalachian Mountains in southwestern Virginia, she sees trouble on the horizon.

"In an instant, anything can happen," she told Reuters. "And I firmly believe that you have to be prepared."

Tegeler is among a growing subculture of Americans who refer to themselves informally as "preppers." Some are driven by a fear of imminent societal collapse, others are worried about terrorism, and many have a vague concern that an escalating series of natural disasters is leading to some type of environmental cataclysm. ..."

(<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/21/us-usa-civilization-collapse-idUSTRE80K0LA20120121>)

*"It is better to be prepared for an opportunity and not have one than to have an opportunity and not be prepared."*

*Whitney M Young Jr*

In early February of 2012, National Geographic completed an online "Doomsday Preppers" survey ([http://images.nationalgeographic.com/wpf/media-live/file/Doomsday\\_Preppers\\_Survey\\_-\\_Topline\\_Results.pdf](http://images.nationalgeographic.com/wpf/media-live/file/Doomsday_Preppers_Survey_-_Topline_Results.pdf)) where they found that:

- 85 percent of the nation is not ready for a devastating event.
- More than 62 percent of Americans think the world will experience a major catastrophe in less than 20 years.

- Nearly three out of every four people (71%) envision a major disaster in their lifetime as an act of God, not man.
- One-third (27%) believe that the Mayan calendar's prediction about a calamitous event in December 2012 will be at least "somewhat true."
- More than half of the nation (52%) believes that if Mitt Romney or one of his Republican counterparts overtake Barack Obama, a man-made catastrophe is more likely.
- Among those who feel unprepared, 40 percent cite the lasting effects of the recession as the reason for their unpreparedness.
- The same number (40%) is saying "to hell with a 401(k)" to save money for catastrophe arrangements.
- Nearly half (49%) of Americans would forgo new high-end appliances in a new home if it had a safe room or bomb shelter instead.
- If doomsday were to arrive, nearly four in 10 (39%) think they would not last two weeks based on the supplies they have on hand.
- One in four Americans have done nothing to prepare.

And that for what people think could happen in the next 20 years:

- Significant Earthquake 64%
- Significant Hurricane 63%
- Terrorist Attack 55%
- Financial Collapse 51%
- Significant Blackout 37%
- Pandemic, Such as From a Super-Virus 29%
- Nuclear Fallout 14%
- None of These 13%

While The Tribune of Wyoming reported on February 23, 2012: **Wyoming House advances doomsday bill** - "State representatives on Friday advanced legislation to launch a study into what Wyoming should do in the event of a complete economic or political collapse in the United States.

House Bill 85 passed on first reading by a voice vote. It would create a state-run government continuity task force, which would study and prepare Wyoming for potential catastrophes, from disruptions in food and energy supplies to a complete meltdown of the federal government. ..." ([http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/wyoming-house-advances-doomsday-bill/article\\_af6e1b2b-0ca4-553f-85e9-92c0f58c00bd.html#ixzz1nRioiqAL](http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/wyoming-house-advances-doomsday-bill/article_af6e1b2b-0ca4-553f-85e9-92c0f58c00bd.html#ixzz1nRioiqAL))

And on February 27, 2012 The Examiner reported: **States begin to prepare for economic collapse in the US** "... The Obama administration appears to be preparing for a long drawn out war in the Middle East, or at the very least, an expected crisis that will require the need to override Constitutional authority and claim dominion over all resources in the United States under the guise of national defense. With the rise in Disaster Preparedness growing for both individuals and states leading up to yesterday's Executive Order, the mood of the nation points strongly towards some event or disaster that will require massive preparations on a national as well as local scale. ..." (<http://www.examiner.com/finance-examiner-in-national/states-begin-to-prepare-for-economic-collapse-the-us>)



The fear of war, combined with an increase in awareness of potential natural, man-made and environmental disasters, energy and grain shortages, economic uncertainty, terrorist attacks, widespread corruption and the 'sense' of the *vulnerability of humanity* brought home by social ills and various events - has once again made survivalism and preparedness popular.

All over the country an increasing number of people seem to have gotten the message that in worst-case scenarios, government - local, state or federal - may not be there to help. In fact even the federal government is urging people to be prepared.

Keep in mind that agencies like FEMA are only *recommending* people stash about three days' worth of provisions because they are operating under the presumption that government services will be able to reach you by then and take over providing for you. Yet if you track the various government agencies, departments and programs that respond to a crisis, *most* are NOT on-site and fully functional for 5-7 days.

So while in most circumstances the government might actually meet this 3-day timeframe, the preparations taking place around the country now are not, in large part, based on "normal" disasters. Instead they are being based on **worst-case scenarios** that, unfortunately, too many people refuse to consider and that includes the increasing instances of governmental disaster relief missing the 3-day timeline.

This creates a growing awareness about the importance of self-sufficiency and in some cases a driving need. Things like learning how to live independently is vital if one wishes to survive potential disasters that could disrupt access to food, water, fuel and other essentials necessary for survival.

***“By failing to prepare you are preparing to fail.”***

***Benjamin Franklin***

This **New Prepper Movement** is becoming increasingly visible on the Internet as fears and concerns feed a growing desire to prepare for the worst.

Thanks to the Information Revolution, the internet plays a much bigger role in distributing information and for social networking for those of the civilian preparedness mindset. Online survival/prepper web sites include blogs, podcasts such as SurvivalMom (<http://thesurvivalmom.com/>), DoctorPrepper

(<http://www.doctorprepper.com/>) and PrepperPodcast (<http://www.prepperpodcast.com/>); even a web television portal called Prepper TV (<http://prepper.tv/>).

YouTube videos abound claiming to teach viewers how to build their own fallout shelters or earthquake-proof their food stores, or instructing them which firearms to purchase to prepare for catastrophe. Forums discussing these and other topics have also popped up across the Web. They provide a platform for Preppers to discuss survival vehicles, survival retreats and emerging threats, as well as list survivalist groups.

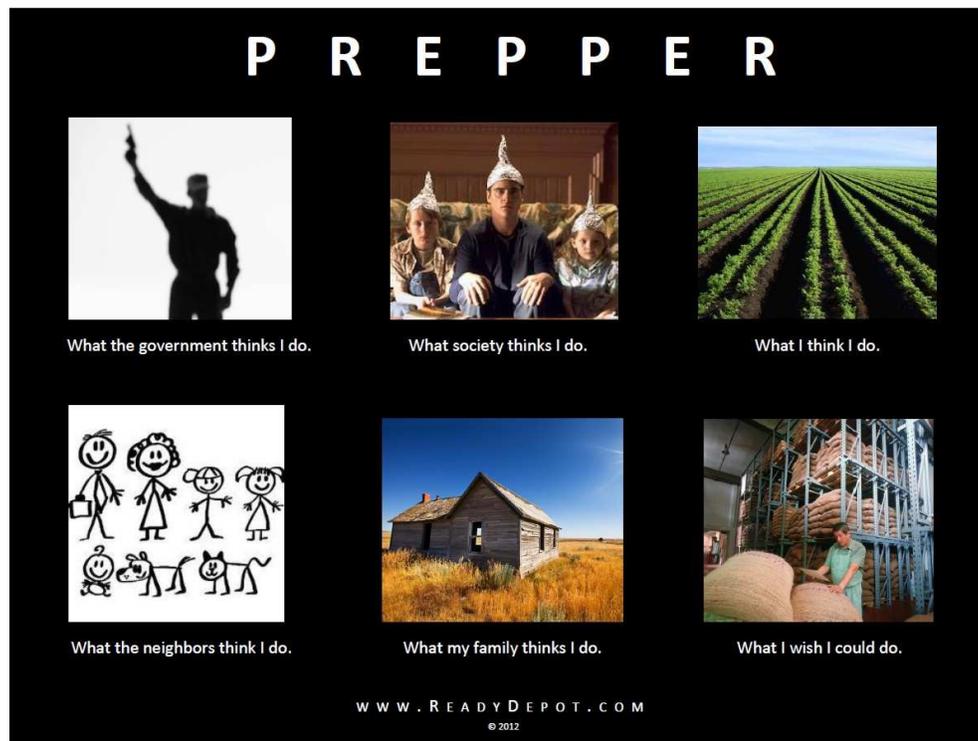
Mainstream has produced some television series on "Preppers"; The Discovery Channel's "Doomsday Bunkers", National Geographic's "Doomsday Preppers" and as mentioned the Animal Planet produced a show called "Meet the Preppers".



"Between the media and the Internet, many people have built up a sense that there's this calamity out there that needs to be avoided," says Art Markman, a cognitive psychologist at the University of Texas who studies the way people think.



More and more regular people, with jobs and homes, are increasingly fearful about the future and realize that we can't predict it. With all this sensationalized 24-hour cable news, we realize that we can't predict the future and so the term "**Prepper**" has become common place.



Today many Preppers go out of their way to avoid the stereotypes that come along with the "survivalist" label—they've made a clear and calculated decision about the risks at hand and aren't waiting around for anybody else to fix them.

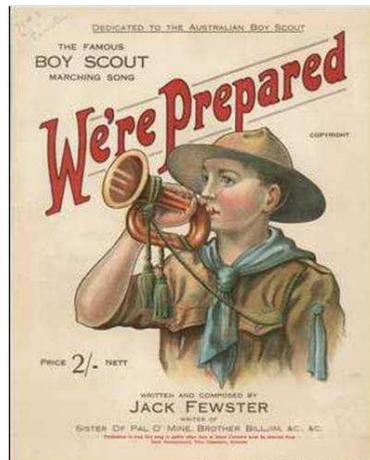
*“Learning is not compulsory... neither is survival.”*

*W. Edwards Deming*

"I consider it more of a reaction than a movement," says Tom Martin, a 32-year-old Idaho truck driver who is the founder of the American Preppers Network, which receives some 5,000 visitors to its Web site each day. "There are so many variables and potential disasters out there, being a Prepper is just a reaction to that potential." But prepping, says Martin, is just a new word for a very old way of life.



"You don't have to have a survival retreat loaded with guns secluded in the wilderness to be a prepper," adds David Hill Sr., 54, a former jet mechanic who runs the Web site [WhatisaPrepper](http://www.WhatisaPrepper.blogspot.com) (http://www.WhatisaPrepper.blogspot.com) from his home in rural West Virginia. "There are many people who live in urban and suburban areas who don't own guns who also identify themselves as preppers. ... A prepper is someone who is uncomfortable relying on others for the basics of survival and protection."



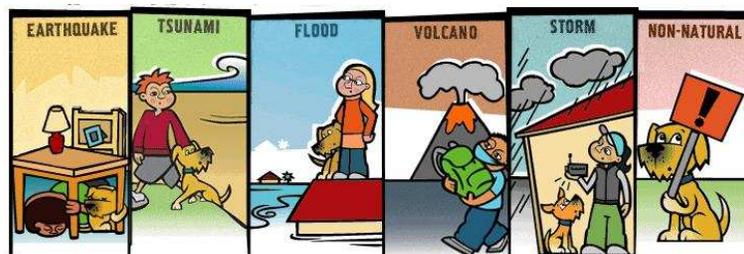
Hard-core Survivalists might think of Preppers as soft; "Eventually, the Chef Boyardee is going to run out," jokes Cody Lundin, the founder of the *Aboriginal Living Skills School* (<http://www.codylundin.com/>), a survival camp based out of his home in Prescott, Az.



Researchers say that interest in survivalism and civilian preparedness can often be a barometer of social anxiety; and in many cases, says sociologist Richard Mitchell, it can be a response to modern stress. So is it's no surprise we're seeing a surge in it now; what with 'climate change' to the economy, swine flu to terrorism, the current state of the world is enough to make even the biggest cynic just a little bit worried.

<http://www.press.uchicago.edu/presssite/metadata/epl?mode=synopsis&bookkey=3615289>

Humans and governments worldwide are coming to the conscious realization that depending *solely* on human-made infrastructures, agencies, governments or other outside entities - is leaving themselves vulnerable to suffer many more trials and tribulations or even death, in *any* type of disaster.



**Today's Preppers** look at the whole gambit of possible disaster scenarios and lifestyle methodologies; from personal to worldwide; from natural planetary events (severe weather, volcanoes,

earthquakes, solar storms, asteroids, polar shifts and comets), human-made (structural, civilization or economic collapse, war, terrorism, overpopulation, crime) to metaphysical events such as Armageddon, Nostradamus, Mayan Calendar and Newton's Bible code; to consumption styles (use and toss) to farming and distribution methods.

**Most citizens of the US today are 'Preppers'** by the very nature of obtaining first aid kits and insurance policies, *in case they are needed*. While what our mainstream media calls 'Preppers', are those citizens that go just beyond first aid kits and insurance policies, and store enough supplies to be at least self-sufficient for 3 days; to the full fledged *survivalists* that “*lives off the land, armed to the teeth and running around in skins and a loin cloth*”.

As with any subculture that can even remotely be called ‘extreme’, Preppers that extend their self-sufficiency beyond a few months are often labeled *extremists* and *doomsayers*.

Yet with today’s civilization being so far removed from what it takes to provide the basic human necessity to life 'needs' (goods, knowledge, skills) to survive this produces, at the very least, an ***unconscious feeling of danger***, if not a conscious one. This coupled with all the 'news' media coverage of 'disaster events' and it is no wonder that the ***New Prepper Movement*** is growing by leaps and bounds.

*“A prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead  
and prepares for them;  
the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.”*  
*Proverbs 22:3*

Humans today cannot afford to be seduced into thinking that we will be able to “*read the writing on the wall*”. We cannot continue to ignore our fears by thinking this “*will never happen to me*” or “*people are too inventive and ingenious to let that happen*” and face the facts of history head on – It **does** happen to us and most of the inventiveness in ingenuity has occurred **after** the crisis, not before. Ultimately **we** are the ones who have the responsibility to take care of ourselves and loved ones, no one else can do this for us.

*“If it is to be, it is up to me.”*  
*William H. Johnsén*  
*Depression-era realist/impressionist painter*

We all have a tough choice here: Prepare Now or become dangerous and life threatening to ourselves and others when a crisis occurs that destroys all that we currently know and depend on to stay alive.

I have long been a hiker and backpacker. I love the outdoors and nature. I love the idea of being self-reliant and have been researching, learning and planning for moving to a rural area again (I grew up on a small Shilo Mennonite farm in NY) with a small, as self-reliant as possible homestead. I want to be independent from as many utilities and outside entities as possible; for my food, energy, health, water, sanitation and all the rest of my basics needs; A homesteader, a small farmer/rancher, a country/rural person – *A Prepper*.

Bottom line is that in some small way we are all Preppers consisting of all ages, all nationalities, all faiths, and all races, rich and poor, in urban, suburban and rural areas. We are the adult Boy Scouts – the civilian Coast Guard - *Always Prepared for whatever twists and turns life throws at us from any source.*



I also know that in all my years of prepping (since the 1970's); I have *never before seen* such a proliferation of information and groups on the subject like I have in the last 5-10 years. Something must be up to make people worldwide feel this need. Yes, something is definitely up indeed!

*Today is the Tomorrow that you worried about Yesterday*

TNT

*“Without self-reliance, there is no independence.*

*Without independence there is no freedom.*

*Without freedom, there is no self.”*

*Anonymous*