

Top Show Stoppers to Preparedness

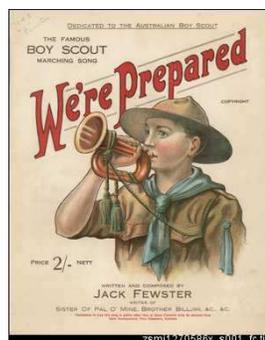
“By failing to prepare you are preparing to fail.” Benjamin Franklin

I have been the self-reliant, independent Prepper type since the 70's. For the last 10 years I have been helping friends and acquaintances get prepared and for the last year I have been helping strangers get prepared through my blog, scribd.com documents and in public talks, etc. When I was recently asked *“What are the top reasons why people fail to prepare or fail in succeeding to prepare?”* I had to stop and think for a minute before I answered. This is what I came up with and although these are not ranked, they are the biggies in my book.

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



- The “*rose colored glasses*” attitude: You know the “*that will never happen here or to me, etc.*” or “*people are too inventive and ingenious to have or let that happen*” type of people. The one place we can almost routinely see this attitude is in Home Fires; People don't have home fire drills, don't check or have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. All I can say is if this can never happen then why do you have home, vehicle, life and health insurance or first aid kits? Why do sports teams, like football, practice what to do *in case* there is a fumble or interception? Why do so many people die from fire, smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning? Why do you even bother to tune up your vehicle and check the tires?



- The “*you’re just a doomsayer, no one can prepare for everything*” mentality: Although it is true that no one can be prepared for everything and there are true doomsayers out there, it is not being a doomsayer to prepare for what is *mostly likely to occur* in your area or for what concerns you the most. After all the Boy Scouts with their motto of “Always Prepared” are not considered doomsayers. To fight the depressing “doomsayer” mentality we Preppers take control of all the little things we can control and prepare in that fashion. Most of us are not doomsayers or “hide in the hills” survivalists. We are simply prepared for either what scares us the most or is most likely to occur according to “science and education”. We *do not* count on any outside entity or government to do this for us, although we do form tight, intimate, close groups that are geographically near us.

“Security is mostly superstition.” Helen Keller



- The “*I just don’t have the time and or money to do this*” attitude: Way too many people fall into this category and I really don’t know why. I guess that some people get these feelings because it requires a different “think” to “living” and for others they are trying to get this done instantaneously, instead of *planning* to accomplish this over a specified timeframe that they can handle (financially, physically as well as mentally). The most common trait I see in this group of people is that they fail to write down their preparedness plan first – before doing anything else “prepperwise”. By having a formal plan in writing it sticks out like a sore thumb that this can only be accomplished over time. Yes commitment to anything takes time and effort, yet will it hurt us or end our lifestyles if we take 10-15 minutes a week away from say; watching TV, listening to the radio, reading a book or window shopping and the like?



Top Show Stoppers to Preparedness - Continued



- *The “that is what such-n-such (S & R, the government, fire & rescue, law enforcement and the like) are for” attitude: To me this group, for a lack of a better, less harsh phrase – are just plain irresponsible, lazy and or dependent on outside entities instead of taking responsibility for themselves. These are the type of people I will have to defend me and mine from when these outside entities fail to “take care” of them. Only solution here is to get off your butt and take responsibility for yourself wherever and whenever you can.*



If anyone is counting on rescue or relief agencies or government programs to come to their aid should just take a good look at history. When Civil Defense started in 1916 it stressed individual responsibility for preparedness. During WWII CD had a whole campaign on Victory Gardens and canning your own foods. During the cold war CD stressed that individuals should be prepared to take care of themselves for at least 10-14 days and stated they had supplies to assist communities of 1 million for that time frame too. When CD was consolidated under FEMA in 1979 the agency stated that people should be prepared to be on their own for at least 5-7 days, with supplies for a community of 1 million for 5 days. Today, with FEMA

under Homeland Security, FEMA states people should be prepared to take care of themselves for 3-5 days and attests to being able to assist a community of 500,000 for 3-5 days. The events of Hurricanes Andrew, Katrina and Rita, along with 9/11 and the Gulf Oil Spill should be testimony enough that these big entities cannot be of quick assistance in a time of emergency.

“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

- Last but not least the *“it’s just a gimmick by (corporate or individual) entities to rob us and make money”* or *“this is just the governments way of keeping us scared”* mentality: Our government has practiced “scare tactics” almost since its inception and most of the time we citizens have *not* fallen prey to it. I also think it is safe to say a great many of us feel this way. We Preppers however *do not* stop preparing because of it. We will research and shop around to determine what is what or the best price and then take appropriate action or not. Face it this attitude does not stop people from checking out all those ads during the holidays and buying even though we know that the prices have been jacked up around Halloween and aren’t really “on sale” at all.



All of the above have a few things in common:

- Lack of thought
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of formal planning
- Fear of change and the unknown
- A general lack of self and confidence



My mantra to fighting all of the above is *“Don’t let the bastard win”* and bastard can be anything or anyone.

- An exercised brain (thought) collects knowledge.
- Knowledge is gained through thought and research.
- Planning is accomplished via thought, research and then written down for formalization and continuity.
- Fear is conquered through knowledge and planning.
- Change cannot be stopped, only altered and adjusted to and is an opportunity to learn something new.
- The unknown is something to think and learn about so it becomes less threatening and often familiar or known.
- Confidence comes from knowledge and skill, coupled with an “I can do” attitude.

“Chance never helps those who do not help themselves.”
Sophocles



A word of Thought and Caution to anyone falling into any of the above groups is this: Your Prepper friend or acquaintance may love and care for you greatly, however *do not* count on them to be your “saving grace” in a major, large scope crisis. They will be having a hard enough time taking care of themselves and their families and too busy to take care of *you* too.



To my Friends and Acquaintances: Even though I love you and you are my friend (capital and small F) or a close acquaintance (capital and small A), please *do not* come to me when a major, large scope crisis hits and expect me to provide you with a “life line”. Because I will be way to busy taking care of me and mine and *will not* be able to take you on too. Come to me lacking *only safe shelter* (or some knowledge) and ready for hard work and *I will and can be of assistance*. Above all I will always be there for you during all the little disasters that life throws our way to *assist* you in any way I can; I will help you “do” for yourself, but I *will not* do it for you.

"No man who is not willing to help himself has any right to apply to his friends, or to the gods." Demosthenes, Greek Orator

Now is the time to do a little deep “soul searching” and if you really want to become prepared for what you are most concerned about or is most likely to occur in your area, then just be yourself and DO IT and forget what anyone else says or does. Only *you* know who *you* are and what *you* want and only *you* can accomplish it!

Keep on Preppin ;-}

TNT