

LMI Newsletter

January/February 2008

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Cover Photo: The St. Maries River by the Upriver Homestead in November.

LMI Notes



January and February in the mountain northwest is chillingly cold and piled deep in snow. Winter is here and with it comes extensive threats to survival. We've included several articles with this issue that will inform you how to survive cold weather conditions. Every year hundreds of homes burn down due to chimney fires which spread out of the chimneys and into the frame structure of the homes. This is mainly due to poor maintenance. Most fires are preventable. In the article, *Chimney Fires and Evacuation Plans*, we'll tell you how to take care of your wood stove, pipes and chimney. We'll tell you what to look for when inspecting your stove and chimney and show you how to take proper care to ensure that chimney fires do not occur. If a fire should happen, however, we'll tell you what to do and how to be ready to evacuate.

America in the early to mid 1800's saw an expansion into the west. These early migrants were usually mountain men who traveled into the plains and mountain wildernesses. They made their living by trapping, living off the land and trading and living with native tribes. Long before the manufacture of modern synthetic fabrics, the mountain men were able to venture into the wilds and survive winter's chill with common place, natural materials. We examine how they dressed and what materials were used and how they were used to keep the mountain men alive. *Dressing For The Cold: How The Mountain Men Did It* explains how the mountain men dressed for the weather and survived the cold.

Small Projects For A Winter Survival Kit will give you something to do over the long winter nights. When completed, these little projects can be added to your survival kit. These are all small, but useful items that help those in need survive winter conditions.

An excerpt from Army Field Manual FM 21-76 Survival, shows you how to build several different *Field Expedient Shelters* for differing climates. An expedient shelter can save your life in a survival situation. It is well worth the effort to learn to build such shelters.

We have plenty of other articles for you as well. *Caring For Game Meat* tells you how to butcher your game animal and create your cuts of meat. *Twilight* focuses and how to become politically active. *Northeast Notes* considers the differences in *Salvage Vs Looting*. Until next issue, take care and be ready.

Dressing For Winter's Cold: How The Mountain Men Did It

by Corcceigh Green

In this modern world the outdoorsman and survivalist have some super quality, almost miraculous materials to choose from when selecting cold weather clothing for their outdoor adventures. Such super materials allow the body underneath to wick away sweat and stay dry while repelling rain, wind and snow from the outer layers.



These super materials are perfect for today's outdoorsmen and survivalists, but suppose you must do without them. What if a series of disasters, natural and/or man made, were to greatly reduce or destroy our infrastructure and Americans found themselves on their own? The super materials that are used to construct modern outdoor clothing are all synthetic. This means that an industrial infrastructure is necessary to make such clothing and bring it to your favorite outlet store. Once that infrastructure is gone, those super materials are gone. What you have will eventually wear out, then you'll be left with what you can make for yourself or what you can trade for through cottage industries close to your home.

Home manufactured clothes will be made from natural materials and, to be effective, should be used very closely to what has been used historically. Those who have gone to the extremes of wilderness living without the modern conveniences we take advantage of today are deserving of a degree of study by survivalists and homesteaders. The mountain men who began their treks into the wilderness beginning a hundred years ago developed many survival techniques well worth studying today. They braved the elements and went months without re-supply. They did so by living off the land, trapping and knowing how to shelter themselves from the cold. In fact it was a famous saying amongst mountain men that the only thing they feared was a cold wind. They protected themselves from the cold wind by dressing appropriately with the materials of the day.

Clothing is the first layer of shelter for the frontiersman. Lacking modern material like gore-tex, the mountain men made use of natural material which served them as well as any of the modern materials in use today. Cotton materials were used only for garments that came in direct contact with the skin. These garments were light weight and light construction. Cotton retains moisture from sweat becoming saturated and useless as an insulating material. Worse yet, when cotton is saturated with moisture it will actually help to conduct heat away from the body with every chill gust of wind. For this reason cotton was used only as an undergarment.

Over the drawstring style underdrawers of the day, woolen "long handles" were worn. Wool is a superior material in the manufacture of winter garments. While wool may also become wet, it is easily dried by a small amount of heat. Body heat will be sufficient to dry wool and restore it's ability to insulate the body from the cold. Long handles could be made in cotton as well for comfort when worn against the skin, however, this limited it's effectiveness against cold. Woolen long handles were preferred. If necessary, a linen shirt would be worn against the upper body underneath the long handles to prevent itching and chafing.

When possible wool socks were also utilized with moccasins or boots. Footwear is extremely

important. Care of the feet may determine whether a frontiersman would remain mobile and healthy. If wool socks were not available, the feet were wrapped with soft tanned leather. Moccasins were widely used as they were easily traded for on the frontier between the self-reliant mountain men and Native Americans. A minority would possess more costly boots. Boots were superior to moccasins in the winter. Moccasins were either ankle high or were tied with rawhide to hold in place above the ankle, due to the soft leather of their manufacture. Boots, however, were made with stiff, top grain leather. They stayed upright through ice, snow and frozen stream crossing. They were easier to pull off when encrusted with slush and ice and protected the feet better.

Extremities such as the feet are indicators of the effect of cold on the body. When the feet become cold it is because the body is drawing heat away from the extremities and conserving the heat for the body's core. On the frontier, it was smart to take care of your feet.

In the warmer months, buckskin served well as a material for pants, but when winter blew in, among a mountain man's most prized possessions was a good pair of elk hide pants. Leather is an excellent wind proof material. When the Chinook blows in from the north and covers the mountains with its icy breath, it is leather that will keep it from the mountain man's skin. Elk hide is much thicker than that of deer. While it is heavier wearing on the body, it is less likely to be pushed by the wind to find openings through which air may penetrate next to the skin. When treated with muskrat, beaver or mink oil, elk hide sheds water as well as the best of modern technology's materials. The leather from elk hide does a fantastic job at repelling rain, wind, snow, ice and water while keeping the body underneath warm.

Up top, the mountain man would add a wool shirt to his winter wardrobe. Layered against his woolen long handles and perhaps linen under shirt, the wool shirt would trap more insulating dead air between the layers of clothes. Layering clothing was and still is today very important in protecting body heat. It is the dead air trapped between the layers of clothing that retains heat, not the clothing itself. The less trapped air that is circulated between layers of clothing, the more heat is retained.

As with the woolen long handles, a mountain man's wool shirt would dry quickly from mere body heat if it were to become wet. When dry, the shirt will retain heat most efficiently. Water is a great conductor of heat. Wet clothing will conduct heat away from the body toward the colder outer layers and into the environment. Since mountain men didn't have space aged wonder fabrics, they relied on wool due to its quick drying abilities.

Cold or not, when you must perform a lot of work you are going to sweat. Sweating is going to get your clothes wet. As discussed above, wet clothing will not retain heat and you may freeze. To prevent building up too much heat while working, the mountain man would do his heavy work like chopping wood in the outfit outlined above no matter how cold the weather unless there was a stiff wind blowing. Should a hefty northerly begin blowing across the plains, the mountain man will want something to keep that wind from blowing right through his clothes.

As mentioned earlier, leather makes a great wind breaker. It is still superior to our modern synthetic materials like nylon. As a light windbreaker while working, the buckskin shirt of the mountain man still can't be beat. Depending on the weather, the buckskin shirt would be worn over the long handles in cold weather or over the wool shirt with the long handles in colder weather.

When not working or when checking on the trapline in truly frigid weather, the mountain man needed even more protection. This came in what we think today of over coats. The capote was basically wool blankets that were cut to a pattern and sewn into an overcoat. These varied in quality from thick wool piled blankets sewn upon themselves in a nearly quilted pattern to stiff horse blankets that had been traded for trinkets. They were utilized by all of the Native American tribes and frontiersmen alike. Each tribe or individual would add their own improvement or convenience to the capote making a specific style of no regard.

What distinguished the capote is that they were made from cloth, usually wool trade blankets, incorporated sleeves, a hood and a belt. They were usually open in the front to be closed around the front and secured with the belt. Some tribes or individuals did add antler, wood, bead or brass buttons, but the majority were open in the front. These garments, depending on their make and quality, served the peoples of the frontier fairly well. As long as you weren't caught in an ice storm without shelter and fire, a capote could keep you warm.

Fair weather was never guaranteed on the frontier, however, and garments capable of keeping a trapper warm through a storm was a necessity. Again, this garment would be leather to keep out the wind and shed water. The Native Americans of the plains and mountains made use of buffalo hide to make robes for winter protection. The fur was left on the hide and the exposed skin was brain tanned and smoked for weather proofing. This garment was simply wrapped over the body with or without other clothing.

While the buffalo robe served the Native American well, frontiersmen took the buffalo robe one step further, cutting the hide to lengths and sewing into a very effective coat with sleeves and button closures. Collars would also be sewn in and pulled up around the neck and face in bad weather. The buffalo coat was worn over regular winter clothing or even capotes. When worn with regular winter clothes, the buffalo coat had no equal in keeping it's owner warm and dry.

Hands were important too. Mountain men needed working fingers to care for and check their traps. This means keeping those fingers warm. Mittens were the best in technology for this task. Superior to gloves, mittens house the hands and fingers together away from the weather where the shared body heat helps to keep them warm. As with other parts of the body, layering was a secret in keeping this part of the body warm too. Mittens were worn with wool liners and leather outer shells.

The wool liners could be made from trade wools blankets and like everything on the frontier varied in quality. A good pair of liners would be of thick, tightly knitted wool. The leather outer shell would be made from buffalo or elk hide. This leather would be treated in the same manner as the buffalo robe, brain tanned and smoked for weather proofing. A good pair would have the animal's hair in place and reverse sewn, so that the hair is on the inside of the mitten and the tough, weather proof skin is on the outside. This configuration helped to keep the hands warmer.

The last extremity to be covered was the head. Unprotected, a great deal of heat is lost through the head. The mountain man on the frontier needed a nice lid on his noggin to keep that heat in the body.

The hat most wide spread among mountain men was the suede broad brim. This hat was somewhat light for winter alone, but was often worn over a wool scarf tied over the top of the head and secured under the chin. The wool kept in the heat while the suede leather kept out the wind. This hat was so wide spread among mountain men, plainsmen and trappers that the Crow

sign for white man was to simply run the edge of the hand across the forehead. This simulated the broad brim of the hat worn by the majority of white men on the frontier.

Fur is an excellent insulator and retains body heat well. Fur works like this, the hair traps air against the skin. The air that is trapped circulates very little and is warmed by body heat. The air that has been warmed will retain this heat unless circulated out by wind. The leather underneath will break the wind and keep it away from the body. As a result of the trapper's trade, he had plenty of fur on hand with which to make himself a hat.

A trapper would not craft a hat from beaver pelt. Beaver pelts were in high demand in Europe and on the eastern American coast. While the pelts were made into hats, they were made into high fashion, low practicality hats. The trapper's income would be based greatly on the delivery of beaver pelts, therefore the trapper would use a lower grade pelt. The old images we have from the frontiersmen of American legend like in *The Ballad Of Davy Crockett*, has them wearing 'coon skin caps and buckskin.

While the fur and 'coon skin caps were not as wide spread as the suede broad brim hat, the fur hat was indeed popular among the frontiersmen. Many were made of 'coon, but practically any fur would do, as long as it wasn't prime, money making pelts and from a small enough critter to fold and sew the whole pelt in on itself in a way to form a bowl shaped hat. This made 'coon, coyote, wolf, 'possum, skunk, bobcat and lynx pelts all popular in the crafting of hats. These hats were much more efficient at trapping body heat than the suede broad brim, but with swarms of new greeners packing their donkeys westward every year, the suede broad brim remained the most popular.

The mountain men of yesteryear had to know how to deal with the elements while making their living in the wilderness. Americans today can learn from those who have gone before and passed the techniques of survival on to others. The mountain men weren't interested in setting fashion trends for the children of the 1950s. They were interested in surviving the winter. The materials they used and the clothes they wore for protection. If the infrastructure is damaged for several years or beyond repair, we can pick up the pieces through cottage industries and natural materials that we can produce for ourselves.

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CHIMNEY FIRES AND EVACUATION PLANS

by Corcceigh Green

Homesteaders love being self-sufficient. To sustain our self-sufficient life-styles we provide our own heat for winter months. This is done most often with wood burning stoves and/or fireplaces. After all, you can't very well think of yourself as self-sufficient if you must rely upon the outside world to keep your home warm. Those of us who choose to live self-sufficiently like to think we can provide for most of our own needs. Since heating is one of those needs, access to a wood lot and a wood burning stove are necessities to homesteaders.

Equipping your home with an efficient wood burning stove will increase your self-sufficiency, but, like when installing any piece of equipment, whether furnace or air conditioning, upkeep and maintenance schedules must be maintained for safety. Burning wood produces heat which keeps the homestead warm. That warm fire also produces smoke. Smoke is not actually a vapor or gas. Smoke is made up of very fine particulates. As these particulates are carried up the chimney they cool and stick to the interior of pipes and chimneys. The particulates are made of burned and unburned resins, ash and potash. The resins form a black, sometimes papery, gob that clings to chimney bricks. This is called creosote.

Over time creosote builds up in the chimney clogging the airway and creating a fire hazard. As creosote builds in your chimney it narrows the airway, constricting and slowing the flow of hot air. This gives the air a greater chance to cool which accelerates the accumulation of creosote. Although creosote is created during the burning process, it is still flammable. Creosote can ignite due to a number of conditions. Many times sparks are carried into the chimney by the flow of hot air. These sparks may become nestled in a pocket of creosote where it will smolder long enough to heat and ignite the creosote. At times, the air from the fire is hot enough to ignite the creosote. If you have allowed a lot of creosote to build up in your pipes or chimney you may be facing an inferno.

Creosote can burn very hot and if there is a lot of creosote that has built up in your chimney a fire can heat the lining and bricks in your chimney so much that the heat will cause your chimney to crack. Heat, fire and sparks easily find their way through such cracks and into the wood frame of the house. Many homeowners lose their homes every year due to house fires caused by chimney fires. Fortunately, there are simple and easy preventive measures to avoid a chimney fire.

To prevent creosote build up, take down your stove and pipes and brush them out with a chimney brush. Clean ash out of your stove thoroughly and inspect the inside for cracked bricks and cracks in the stove's metal. Cracks in bricks can be repaired with refractory clay. Cracks in the metal can be repaired by brazing or welding. Don't forget to inspect and clean the stove's combustion baffle. That's just the shelf above the fire box.

Older pipes should be replaced as well as pipes that are rusted or have patches that had been burned through. Often those areas will look as though there are a series of pin pricks. You also need to inspect the interior of the chimney. Look for cracks in the lining. Out of line segments in the chimney indicate portions of the chimney has buckled, settled or otherwise fallen out of place. This will restrict air flow and create a shelf where creosote will form and accumulate creating a fire hazard. The more creosote that accumulates in the chimney or pipes, the hotter and longer a fire will burn within the structure increasing the chances of the fire spreading into the

wood structure of the home.



This chimney pipe is restricted by creosote. This is a dangerous situation. The creosote restricts air flow and can ignite causing a disastrous fire.



The same pipe cleaned of creosote. The air flow is much more efficient and no combustibles are present.

Those rings that fit around your pipe as it disappears into the chimney wall aren't there for merely decorative purposes. The ring should fit snugly on the pipe and cover the opening into the wall. Placed flush against the wall, this ring restricts air flow into the chimney from the room in

which your stove is situated. In case of a chimney fire you must cut the air flow to the chimney. This ring will prevent the chimney from drawing air into the fire through the opening where the pipe fits into the chimney wall.

Barring any necessary repairs, you will need to keep your chimney and pipes clean of creosote. You need a regular sweeping schedule, a chimney brush and a flexible or segmented shaft for your brush. I used to sweep out my chimney once every couple of weeks, but after a chimney fire, I sweep out my chimney once a week. Most homesteaders should have no problem sweeping out their chimneys every couple of weeks. My problem was in missing a couple of cleanings due to very cold temperatures. This was a good lesson for me. Never miss cleanings because of a little cool weather.

Should you be unable to climb onto your roof to sweep out your chimney you can do so by removing the pipes from the stove and chimney wall. Use a length or two of quarter inch PVC pipe with a chimney brush attached to one end to push up the chimney. This will remove much of the creosote. To remove more of the creosote push the brush up the chimney mainly to one side and draw the brush back down mainly to the other side. If you are unable to fit a brush into your chimney from the ground floor try pushing only the PVC pipe up the chimney and swirl it around, strongly scraping the sides of the chimney. This will not work as well as a brush, but will still eliminate a lot of creosote.



Guide the brush up the chimney while pushing with the shaft.

Sometimes, despite all of the preventive measures you've taken, a fire may ignite inside your chimney or pipes. Hopefully, you've been keeping up with your sweeping schedule and there's not enough creosote in your chimney to cause any damage. Do not ignore this danger! As soon as a chimney fire is noticed implement your plans to deal with the fire. Your plans should have two phases. One phase is to quickly address and put out the fire. The second phase is to evacuate and get everyone out of the house.

Many chimney fires spread into the house because fires are burning in the stove for heat, but the stoves are left unattended. Never light a fire if you are unable to tend to it. Often the first sign of

a chimney fire is the sound. There is a “poof” followed by the sound of rushing air. This is the fire igniting, then drawing air into itself from the stove through the pipes. If you go out to look at your chimney you will probably see a lot of billowy, white smoke from where the fire had been smoldering. The smoke would soon turn black, but still be thick. If the chimney fire is bad, you will see a column of pure heat rising a few feet above your chimney turning into a column of thick, black smoke.

Your first response should be to alert anyone in the house. Close the damper to your stove and begin soaking newspaper or rags in water. Do not open the stove’s door! This will allow more air to feed the fire. When your rags or newspapers have become saturated with water, briefly open the stove’s door and throw the saturated material onto the fire in the stove to smother it out. Be careful not to sling water onto the brick lining of the stove. This could crack the brick, damaging the stove. Quickly close the door again. This will smother out your fire and create steam which may help to smother the fire in the chimney.

If there are others in your house beside you, he or she should phone the fire department. If you have a stubborn chimney fire you will be calling the fire department anyway. Save yourself some time that may go toward saving your home by calling the fire department quickly. You should also begin making preparation to evacuate. At the first sign of flames forget about getting anything out of the house and get yourself, your family and anything alive in your house out!

Children, the elderly and pets are the first to be taken care of. Make certain everyone is dressed appropriately. On my homestead everyone has a parka due to our northern Idaho climate. Our parkas are military surplus extreme cold weather systems. The multiple large pockets allow us to store a fair amount of survival gear. The parkas with survival gear stowed in the pockets make an excellent grab and go item in cold climates. Items stored in each parka are: folding knife, Mylar blankets, leather ties and twine, fire starters, toilet paper which can also be used as tinder, suckers, compass, ammunition and one or two parkas have a concealed carry weapon and extra ammunition.

Pet carriers are taken down from the closet and pets are loaded into them. If no flames are yet present and the temperature is too cold, the pets remain in the house in their carriers until it is apparent that the fire is out of control. Otherwise, pets and people take what they have at this point and load into the car and evacuate to a safe distance. To protect life is the first responsibility of everyone. No mere possession is worth more than any living being.

If the fire is still contained in the chimney you will have time to load a few more possessions into your car. Possessions chosen to go into your car should be those that will assist your survival. You may only have to spend a night outside, but it will probably be a cold night. Survival kits are handy to bring along. Everyone should be equipped with a good quality sleeping bag rated for the climate. You can’t predict when a fire will happen. If you must evacuate your home at night in the winter, you will need shelter. Each person should also keep a small ‘two man’ tent in their kit. These should not be of the flimsy, thin plastic varieties sold in three day kits. The tents sold in the sporting goods section of Wal-Mart in the thirty dollar range hold up very well. Tents are not the best shelters against the cold, but they do provide efficient protection against wind and rain or snow. Tents are very quick to erect which is advantageous when night is falling or has fallen. You can’t predict when a fire will happen. If you must evacuate your home at night in the winter, you will need shelter.

Each person should keep the above equipment in a pack. Each pack should also contain a

compass, another fire starting kit with a candle, extra kindling and tinder, mess kit, Ramen style noodles, Spam, fishing kit, change of clothes, first aid kit, saw, mattock and knife sharpening kit. A belt should also be ready with a canteen and canteen cup, side arm, sheath knife and some extra ammunition. The belt, pack and parka will contain everything necessary to survive a few nights in the mountains.

Firearms are valuable possessions and necessary tools for survival. I have one rifle and one shotgun loaded and set where I can quickly grab them next to my survival gear. If there is time to grab the survival kit, it will go on my back, the belt with sidearm and canteen will go around my waist. The rifle will sling on my shoulder and the shotgun will be carried. Other rifles and shotguns are kept unloaded in their cases and leaning against the wall behind a door. To retrieve them I can simply give them all a bear hug, pick them up and head out. Sidearms that are not kept in a parka or on a belt are kept in a range bag and a day pack. I have too much ammunition to carry, but have some ammunition of every caliber I own in a bag to be retrieved if time exists.

Other possessions that might be considered for evacuation are vital documents, the family Bible and photo albums. These are situated under the pet carriers in the closet at my homestead. They are easy to reach, but the last to be loaded in the car. This is because the first priority is to save lives. Documents and memories are further down the list.

This assumes that there is time to retrieve the firearms. After grabbing parkas and maybe the survival kits, get everyone and every pet out of the house once the fire becomes uncontained. When preparing to evacuate keep in mind that you must get every living being safely out of your home. No matter what preparations and supplies you've laid in for your family's survival and comfort you won't be able to get everything out of your home. Don't try!

A battery powered smoke detector should be installed in several rooms of your home. They should be tested frequently to ensure they are working properly. You must sleep sometime and these tireless guardians will keep a watch for smoke or fire for you.

A final preparation you will need to make is to keep a ladder handy that will allow a person to climb into the attic. You may need to look into the attic where the chimney protrudes to check for flames, smoke escaping from the sides of the chimney or sparks. If you don't, the firemen will and it will help them to have some equipment ready. Store your ladder close to the house and leaning upright, never on the ground. I learned this lesson when I experienced my own chimney fire. My ladder was stored on the ground. Under three feet of snow. I didn't find the ladder until March of that year. Fortunately the firemen were able to boost another fireman into the attic to check for smoldering embers.

Prevention is the best solution to the problem of chimney fires. Sweeping your own chimney is a chore, but is not that tough and it is a necessary job. If you are unable to sweep your chimney and clean your stove consider hiring a professional or switching to an alternative fuel like natural gas, propane or oil. Have an evacuation plan in place. Practice your plans and know what to do. Homesteaders need to be self-sufficient. They must also be ready to survive should their mode of self-sufficiency ignite a fire. Survival isn't a game. It's a matter of life and death.

Small Projects For A Winter Survival Kit

by Corceigh Green

Those long, dark nights of winter provide a lot of time for Independent Americans. This can be time on your hands to be whittled away with nothing to show for this portion of your life, or it can be time well used for preparation, learning skills or making small items for your bug out kit, parka or vehicle.

Your small projects should reflect the winter season and leave you ready to fend for yourself in the frozen outdoors. Projects that help you to make shelter, build a fire and stay alive in the winter, small though they be, are very important to Independent Americans. Here are a few suggestions to make use of some of your long winter's nights.



The shotgun shell water proof match case.

Matches can be kept safe from the weather and water when stored in this shotgun shell case modified to keep your matches dry.

Save one of your spent shotshell cases the next time you've practiced at the skeet range or bagged a few birds. After you've brought it home, make sure the interior is dry. Leave your primer in the shotshell and seal it with primer sealer.

Place matches into the interior of the shotshell. Your matches should be of the "strike anywhere" variety. If you cannot find these types of matches, you will need to place a striking surface in with your "safety matches". These surfaces are coated with potassium chlorate in order for the friction created by striking the match head against it to create flame. Strike anywhere matches contain potassium chlorate in it's match head, so a special striking surface is not necessary.

Providing a striking surface is fairly simple. Just cut a portion of the striking area on the match box with a pair of scissors. Make sure the surface is no longer than your matches, so that it will fit in the shotshell. When cut, place the striking surface in with the matches. A striking surface may also be obtained from an empty book of matches or can even be made by saturating a small strip of cardboard in a solution of warm water and potassium chlorate.

With your matches and striking surface in place in the shotshell, find yourself a wad. The wad is the portion of a loaded shotshell that sits on top of the powder and holds the pellets. You will notice that the wad has separations toward it's open end. Use a sharp knife to cut these off. Now what you'll have is a plug. Place some super glue around the edge of the plug and place it into the shotshell so that it rests just above the ends of your matches. Allow the glue to set.

When your glue has set, find yourself a candle and light it. Hold the candle over your shotshell and allow the wax to drip down onto where the plug and shotshell meet. This will completely weatherproof the case. Your matches will be safe from rain, snow and water.

Tuna can fire starter.

This is a very simple project, but one that can warm your fanny when the weather turns wet. What you'll need is an empty tuna can, an empty vegetable can, a sauce pan, heat source (preferably a hot plate or stove), cardboard (corrugated cardboard from a box is best), cotton twine and paraffin wax.

Clean and dry the emptied tuna and vegetable cans. You will use the vegetable can as a double boiler for melting the paraffin wax. This way any left over wax may be stored in the can and you will not ruin pots or pans for the kitchen.

Cut your cardboard into strips the same width as the height of the tuna can. Roll your cardboard into spirals and set into the tuna can so that the cardboard fits tightly.

Cut a length of cotton twine and insert into the center of the tuna can through the cardboard spiral. Allow the twine to remain above the cardboard by around an inch.

Fill your sauce pan half full with water and place on your heat source. Place a block of paraffin wax in your vegetable can, then place the vegetable can in your sauce pan. Turn your heat source up on high and melt the wax.

Pour the melted wax over your cardboard filled tuna can, making sure the can becomes filled with wax. See that the cotton twine is also waxed. Set aside overnight and allow to set.

You now have a very effective fire starter. To use, light the cotton twine/wick. When you must use wet kindling to start a fire, place the fire starter under the kindling and light. The fire starter will act similarly to a coal bed, drying and catching the kindling. Leave the fire starter in place to catch the larger, wet firewood as well.

To carry, wrap in aluminum foil and place in a plastic zip lock bag. Make as many as necessary for every member of your family to carry at least one.

Grab and go parka kit.

The most important items to have on hand during the winter months regarding one's survival are items that will keep you warm and sheltered from the elements. It would be beneficial to have on hand the most basic of these items necessary in an easy to grab and go kit. Let's look at how Independent Americans could take a few inexpensive items and store in parka pockets to provide the wearer the means to survive.

Your first defense against the cold is your clothing. Clothing is actually a type of shelter of itself. Well selected clothing will keep the wind off of you, shed rain and snow and insulate your body, keeping you warm. A well selected outer coat is greatly important in keeping you alive in the elements.

The type of coat you should bundle up in when heading into the cold should be rugged and able to move through brush without incurring rips and tears that are easily incurred in light duty casual wear. Lightly constructed ski-coats and much of the sports wear sold at retail stores are not up to the task of moving through the brush. What you'll need is a military surplus extreme cold weather (ecw) parka.

Many varieties of military ecw parkas exists and are sold in surplus stores. Both U.S. and foreign military versions are available and most work very well. Of these, the U.S. surplus fish tail parkas and the Swedish ecw parka works quite nicely. I haven't checked out the Czech copies of the fish tail parka, but they should work as well. Mine is an older U.S. Air Force ecw/survival parka.



The grab and go parka kit showing; knife and sheath, suckers, space blanket, pack ties, makarov, extra magazines, Montana Antler Craft Fire Starter, paper for tinder.

Whichever model you decide upon, you will notice the generous pockets supplied with the parka. These pockets will be filled by you with emergency survival equipment to form a grab and go kit. Grabbing your parka on the way out of your house will ensure that you have at least a minimum cache of survival supplies with you when you need them.

What to stuff your parka pockets with.

Beside the warm, sheltering effects of your parka, you'll need something extra to get you through those very cold nights of January and February.

You may wish to pack a small tube tent in one of your pockets, but I find these to be too flimsy of construction. They may keep some snow and rain off of you, but you can build a much more sturdy and warmer shelter.

A heat reflective space blanket is well worth the carry, however. These can serve to conserve your body heat inside of an expedient shelter and can help to hide you from infrared and thermal imaging sensors (see *Evading Thermal Imaging And Radar Devices* at <http://theindependentamerican.freeyellow.com/therm.html>.)

Fire building is very important for survival in most seasons, but especially so in the winter. Place your shotgun shell waterproof match case and tuna can fire starter together in one of the pockets. Add to this a magnesium, flint and steel fire starter like those from Montana Antler Craft, some dry kindling and tinder like any old used sheet of paper.

A knife is always an important addition to survival equipment. I chose a lock back folder with a leather belt sheath. The folder will ride much easier in a pocket and the belt sheath will be useful if I decide to carry the knife on my belt and save room in my parka pocket. The blade is a clip point, which I find useful in making tools, repairing clothes, skinning game, cutting meat and building shelters. The clip point is an overall general duty blade design that ergonomically helps it's user very well.

If you do not carry a Swiss style pocket knife in your pants pocket as I do, Then I suggest you carry one in your parka. Your pocket knife should have a knife blade, a can opener and a bottle opener at the least. You do not really need any more blades than this, but you should these in your pocket knife. Though many canned foods are coming with easy open tops and most bottles

have twist off caps these days, you will still run across many bottles that require a can opener and most canned foods still require a can opener. Your pocket knife can give you access to these and provide a backup for your folder.

For quick energy, throw a bundle of suckers in a pocket. These are mostly sugar and will give your body a burst of energy. This can be important if you find yourself shivering through the night. Your body is using energy to warm itself. While these won't provide needed nutrition, they will provide instant sugar for your bloodstream which your body will burn while shivering. Don't discard the waxpaper wrapping. Keep the wrappings after eating the sucker and use it as tinder to start your next fire. The paper stems of your suckers also make good kindling. They will be kept dry in your pocket and will help to catch other kindling you may pick up along the way.

Throw a plastic bag for collecting miscellaneous items and water in a pocket. Also include a few leather thongs or parachute cord. These can help to build a shelter, make traps and spears or can be used in a host of other purposes.

My parka also has room for a small handgun beside the other gear I stow in it's pockets. In a grab and go situation, I'll at least be armed with the minimum in self defense firearms. My concealed carry sidearm is a Bulgarian Makarov. It is inexpensive, accurate, reliable. It's cartridge is a bit underpowered, but it is something that I will have with me always, as it is stowed in my parka. In another pocket, I carry between four magazines of 9X18 Makarov ammo. With one magazine in the sidearm and four 8 round spares, I'm carrying 40 rounds of emergency ammo on me.

Fully loaded, the parka is heavier than most, but the weight trade-off is well worth it. The equipment does not make the parka *that much* heavier and the equipment may one day save my life. Should you decide to stock your own grab and go parka kit, the life it saves may be yours.

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Field Expedient Shelters

Excerpted from US Army Field Manual FM 21-76 Survival.

Field-Expedient Lean-To

If you are in a wooded area and have enough natural materials, you can make a field-expedient lean-to (Figure 5-9) without the aid of tools or with only a knife. It takes longer to make this type of shelter than it does to make other types, but it will protect you from the elements.

You will need two trees (or upright poles) about 2 meters apart; one pole about 2 meters long and 2.5

centimeters in diameter; five to eight poles about 3 meters long and 2.5 centimeters in diameter for beams; cord or vines for securing the horizontal support to the trees; and other poles, saplings, or vines to crisscross the beams.

To make this lean-to--

Tie the 2-meter pole to the two trees at waist to chest height. This is the horizontal support. If a standing tree is not available, construct a biped using Y-shaped sticks or two tripods.

Place one end of the beams (3-meter poles) on one side of the horizontal support. As with all lean-to type shelters, be sure to place the lean-to's backside into the wind.

Crisscross saplings or vines on the beams.

Cover the framework with brush, leaves, pine needles, or grass, starting at the bottom and working your way up like shingling.

Place straw, leaves, pine needles, or grass inside the shelter for bedding.

In cold weather, add to your lean-to's comfort by building a fire reflector wall (Figure 5-9). Drive four 1.5-meter-long stakes into the ground to support the wall. Stack green logs on top of one another between the support stakes. Form two rows of stacked logs to create an inner space within the wall that you can fill with dirt. This action not only strengthens the wall but makes it more heat reflective. Bind the top of the support

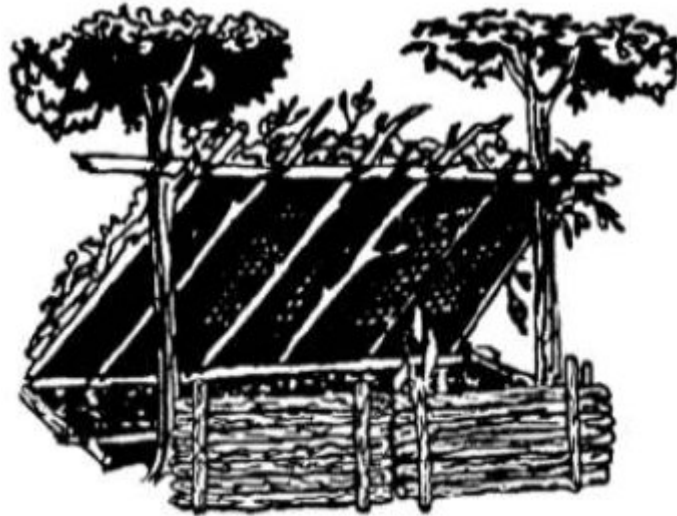


Figure 5-9. Field-expedient lean-to and fire reflector.

stakes so that the green logs and dirt will stay in place.

With just a little more effort you can have a drying rack. Cut a few 2-centimeter-diameter poles (length depends on the distance between the lean-to's horizontal support and the top of the fire reflector wall). Lay one end of the poles on the lean-to support and the other end on top of the reflector wall. Place and tie into place smaller sticks across these poles. You now have a place to dry clothes, meat, or fish.

Natural Shelters

Do not overlook natural formations that provide shelter. Examples are caves, rocky crevices, clumps of bushes, small depressions, large rocks on leeward sides of hills, large trees with low-hanging limbs, and fallen trees with thick branches. However, when selecting a natural formation--

Stay away from low ground such as ravines, narrow valleys, or creek beds. Low areas collect the heavy cold air at night and are therefore colder than the surrounding high ground. Thick, brushy, low ground also harbors more insects.

Check for poisonous snakes, ticks, mites, scorpions, and stinging ants.

Look for loose rocks, dead limbs, coconuts, or other natural growth that could fall on your shelter.

Debris Hut

For warmth and ease of construction, this shelter is one of the best. When shelter is essential to survival, build this shelter.

To make a debris hut (Figure 5-11)--

Build it by making a tripod with two short stakes and a long ridgepole or by placing one end of a long ridgepole on top of a sturdy base.

Secure the ridgepole (pole running the length of the shelter) using the tripod method or by anchoring it to a tree at about waist height.

Prop large sticks along both sides of the ridgepole

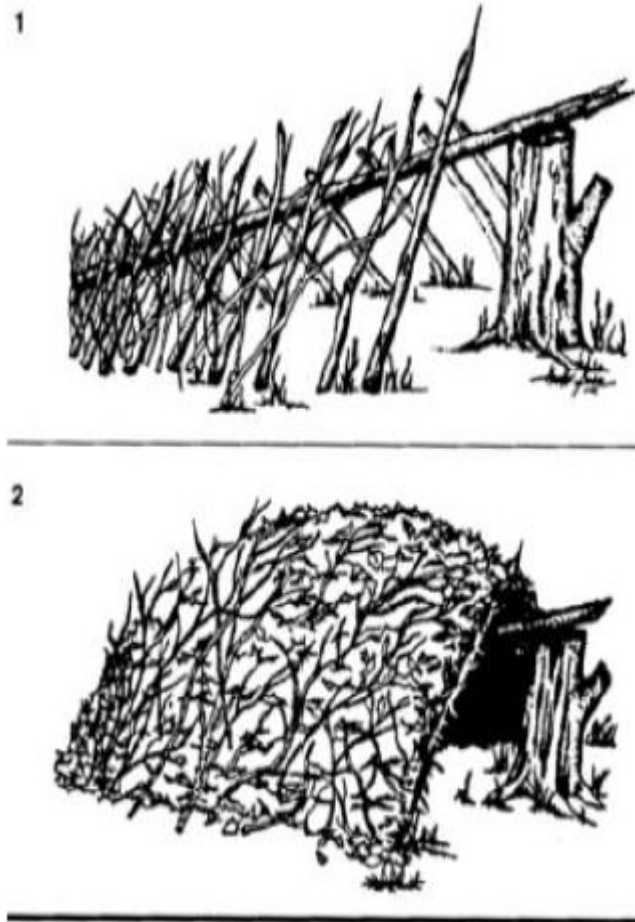


Figure 5-11. Debris hut.

to create a wedge-shaped ribbing effect. Ensure the ribbing is wide enough to accommodate your body and steep enough to shed moisture.

Place finer sticks and brush crosswise on the ribbing. These form a latticework that will keep the insulating material (grass, pine needles, leaves) from falling through the ribbing into the sleeping area.

Add light, dry, if possible, soft debris over the ribbing until the insulating material is at least 1 meter thick--the thicker the better.

Place a 30-centimeter layer of insulating material inside the shelter.

At the entrance, pile insulating material that you can drag to you once inside the shelter to close the entrance or build a door.

As a final step in constructing this shelter, add shingling material or branches on top of the debris layer to prevent the insulating material from blowing away in a storm.

Tree-Pit Snow Shelter

If you are in a cold, snow-covered area where evergreen trees grow and you have a digging tool, you can make a tree-pit shelter (Figure 5-12).

To make this shelter--
Find a tree with bushy branches that provides overhead cover.

Dig out the snow around the tree trunk until you reach the depth and diameter you desire, or until you reach the ground.

Pack the snow around the top and the inside of the hole to provide support.

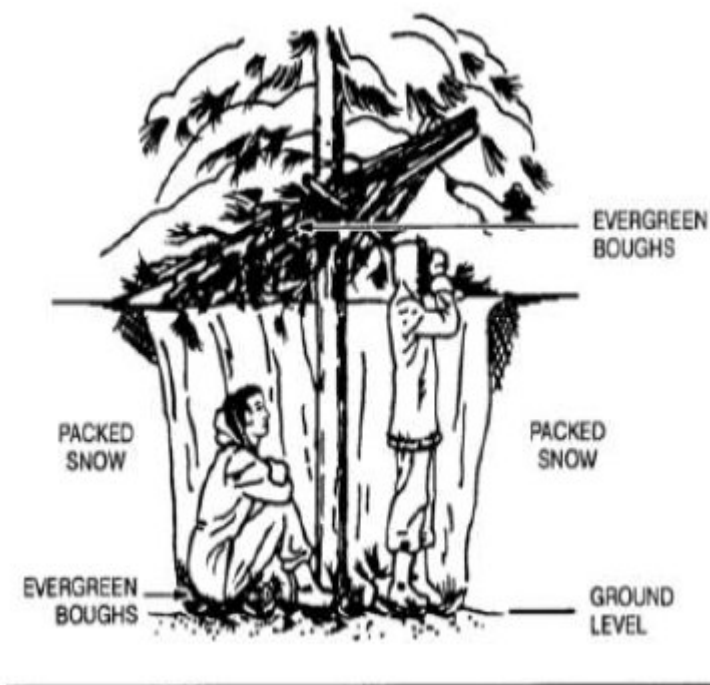


Figure 5-12. Tree-pit snow shelter.

Find and cut other evergreen boughs. Place them over the top of the pit to give you additional overhead cover. Place evergreen boughs in the bottom of the pit for insulation.

Beach Shade Shelter

This shelter protects you from the sun, wind, rain, and heat. It is easy to make using natural materials. To make this shelter (Figure 5-13)--

Find and collect driftwood or other natural material to use as support beams and as a digging tool. Select a site that is above the high water mark.

Scrape or dig out a trench running north to south so that it receives the least amount of sunlight. Make the trench long and wide enough for you to lie down comfortably.



Figure 5-13. Beach shade shelter.

Mound soil on three sides of the trench. The higher the mound, the more space inside the shelter. Lay support beams (driftwood or other natural material) that span the trench on top of the mound to form the framework for a roof.

Enlarge the shelter's entrance by digging out more sand in front of it.

Use natural materials such as grass or leaves to form a bed inside the shelter.

Desert Shelters

In an arid environment, consider the time, effort, and material needed to make a shelter. If you have material such as a poncho, canvas, or a parachute, use it along with such terrain features as rock outcropping, mounds of sand, or a depression between dunes or rocks to make your shelter. Using rock outcroppings.

Anchor one end of your poncho (canvas, parachute, or other material) on the edge of the outcrop using rocks or other weights.

Extend and anchor the other end of the poncho so it provides the best possible shade.

In a sandy area--

Build a mound of sand or use the side of a sand dune for one side of the shelter.

Anchor one end of the material on top of the mound using sand or other weights.

Extend and anchor the other end of the material so it provides the best possible shade.

Note: If you have enough material, fold it in half and form a 30-centimeter to 45-centimeter airspace between the two halves. This airspace will reduce the temperature under the shelter.

A belowground shelter can reduce the midday heat as much as 16 to 22 degrees C (30 to 40 degrees F). Building it, however, requires more time and effort than for other shelters. Since your physical effort will make you sweat more and increase dehydration, construct it before the heat of the day.

To make this shelter--

Find a low spot or depression between dunes or rocks. If necessary, dig a trench 45 to 60 centimeters deep and long and wide enough for you to lie in comfortably.

Pile the sand you take from the trench to form a mound around three sides.

On the open end of the trench, dig out more sand so you can get in and out of your shelter easily. Cover the trench with your material.

Secure the material in place using sand, rocks, or other weights.

If you have extra material, you can further decrease the midday temperature in the trench by securing the material 30 to 45 centimeters above the other cover. This layering of the material will reduce the inside temperature 11 to 22 degrees C (20 to 40 degrees F).

Another type of belowground shade shelter is of similar construction, except all sides are open to air currents and circulation. For maximum protection, you need a minimum of two layers of parachute material (Figure 5-15). White is the best color to reflect heat; the innermost layer should be of darker material.

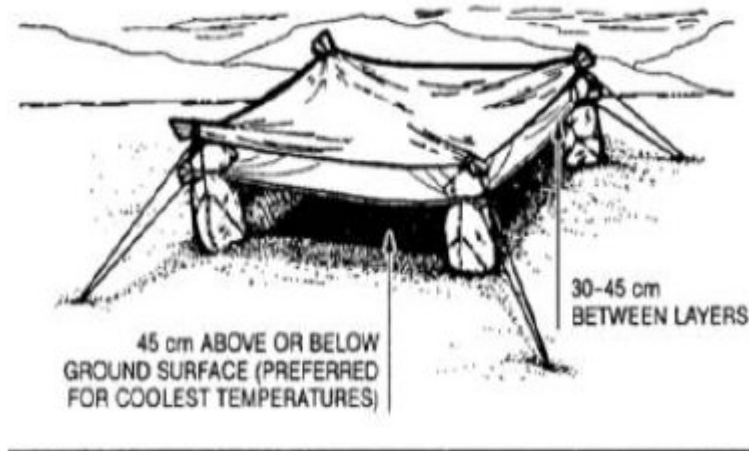


Figure 5-15. Open desert shelter.

Poncho Lean-To

It takes only a short time and minimal equipment to build this lean-to (Figure 5-1). You need a poncho, 2 to 3 meters of rope or parachute suspension line, three stakes about 30 centimeters long, and two trees or two poles 2 to 3 meters apart. Before selecting the trees you will use or the location of your poles, check the wind direction. Ensure that the back of your lean-to will be into the wind.

To make the lean-to--

Tie off the hood of the poncho. Pull the drawstring tight, roll the hood longways, fold it into thirds, and tie it off with the drawstring.

Cut the rope in half. On one long side of the poncho, tie half of the rope to the corner grommet. Tie the other half to the other corner grommet.

Attach a drip stick (about a 10-centimeter stick) to each rope about 2.5 centimeters from the grommet. These drip sticks will keep rainwater from running down the ropes into the lean-to.

Tying strings (about 10 centimeters long) to each grommet along the poncho's top edge will allow the water to run to and down the line without dripping into the shelter.

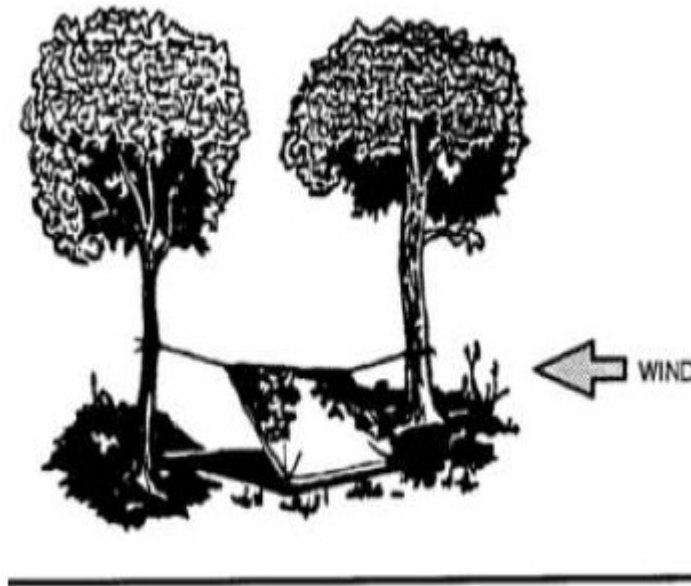


Figure 5-1. Poncho lean-to.

Tie the ropes about waist high on the trees (uprights). Use a round turn and two half hitches with a quick-release knot.

Spread the poncho and anchor it to the ground, putting sharpened sticks through the grommets and into the ground.

If you plan to use the lean-to for more than one night, or you expect rain, make a center support for the lean-to. Make this support with a line. Attach one end of the line to the poncho hood and the other end to an overhanging branch. Make sure there is no slack in the line.

Another method is to place a stick upright under the center of the lean-to. This method, however, will restrict your space and movements in the shelter. For additional protection from wind and rain, place some brush, your rucksack, or other equipment at the sides of the lean-to.

To reduce heat loss to the ground, place some type of insulating material, such as leaves or pine needles, inside your lean-to.

Note: When at rest, you lose as much as 80 percent of your body heat to the ground.

Poncho Tent

This tent (Figure 5-2) provides a low silhouette. It also protects you from the elements on two sides. It has, however, less usable space and observation area than a lean-to, decreasing your reaction time to enemy detection. To make this tent, you need a poncho, two 1.5- to 2.5-meter ropes, six sharpened sticks about 30 centimeters long,

and two trees 2 to 3 meters apart.



Figure 5-2. Poncho tent using overhanging branch.

sticks through the grommets.

Follow the same procedure on the other side. If you need a center support, use the same methods as for the poncho lean-to.

Another center support is an A-frame set outside but over the center of the tent (Figure 5-3). Use two 90- to 120-centimeter-long sticks, one with a forked end, to form the A-frame. Tie the hood's drawstring to the A-frame to support the center of the tent.

When looking for a shelter site, keep in mind the type of shelter (protection) you need. However, you must also consider--

To make the tent--
Tie off the poncho hood in the same way as the poncho lean-to.

Tie a 1.5- to 2.5-meter rope to the center grommet on each side of the poncho.

Tie the other ends of these ropes at about knee height to two trees 2 to 3 meters apart and stretch the poncho tight.

Draw one side of the poncho tight and secure it to the ground pushing sharpened



Figure 5-3. Poncho tent with A-frame.

How much time and effort you need to build the shelter.

If the shelter will adequately protect you from the elements (sun, wind, rain, snow).

If you have the tools to build it. If not, can you make improvised tools?

If you have the type and amount of materials needed to build it.

To answer these questions, you need to know how to make various types of shelters and what materials you need to make them.

A shelter can protect you from the sun, insects, wind, rain, snow, hot or cold temperatures, and enemy observation. It can give you a feeling of well-being. It can help you maintain your will to survive.

In some areas, your need for shelter may take precedence over your need for food and possibly even your need for water. For example, prolonged exposure to cold can cause excessive fatigue and weakness (exhaustion). An exhausted person may develop a "passive" outlook, thereby losing the will to survive.

The most common error in making a shelter is to make it too large. A shelter must be large enough to protect you. It must also be small enough to contain your body heat, especially in cold climates.

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Media Mix

Is Y2K Ten Years Late?
written by Douglas Bell

It's late 2007 when this is being written. The US dollar is in free fall. Oil has hit a record \$100 a barrel and gasoline is over \$3.00 a gallon. Red China is no longer buying US debt in the form of Treasury bonds or T-Bills. Millions of criminals flood across the USSA borders, both north and south. Corrupt courts and crooked cops are the norm in the USSA, and always have been, but now they are not even trying hide the fact. Metal prices have gone wild in the last three years, copper and lead have gone up nearly five times, gold and silver have doubled or more. The stock market has gone into free fall repeatedly and the markets closed when they hit the legal maximum they can fall in any one day. Only the Fed has pumped \$352 BILLION with a B, in one single day to keep it afloat, plus untold billions more on nearly a daily basis has kept it from total collapse.

The Y2K computer crash never happened, at least as was predicted, although there were widely spread black outs, satellites going down, etc, but the point is, they WERE widely spread, as in here and there, and barely reported on when they did happen. So the collapse of civilization never happened, but what if Y2K was just a case of the wrong thing, or not enough of the right thing, too soon, and the coming collapse is happening and will be obvious in the next three years? Is Y2K a case of ten years too soon? Is there something to be learned from the Y2K books? Let's see.

When reviewing Y2K books, I have to admit to a bias. If the book is predicting The End Of The World As We Know It (TEOTWAWKI), no heat, no food, no fuel, no phones, no banks, and then either fails to mention self-defense, firearms, or hunting, then I consider the author to be either a fool, or worse, a traitor or Judas Goat to the book buyers, deliberately leading the sheeple to the slaughter. Other books seem to feel that computers will crash, but not much else will change. The mail will show up, but probably late. Nothing new there now! Gas and other fuel prices will sky rocket just as they do every winter. Not a new prediction by any means and one I could come up with and have no fear of being wrong. Possibly a few food shortages, but nothing dire or drastic, and as long as you invested in gold, silver, antiques and bonds, there will be no need for self-defense or guns, of course, while the ghettos quietly freeze and starve, instead of riot, burn and loot. Now let's see how the books I have on hand stack up seven years after the non-event.

"Y2K & Y-O-U The Sane Person's Home-Preparedness Guide" by Dermot McGuigan and Beverly Jacobson - A Real Goods Solar Living Book (Chelsea Green Publishing co., 1999, 8 1/2" x 6", 166 pages).

"Y2K & Y-O-U" is not really a Y2K book per-say, it's a "let's get rid of all our high-tech stuff and be green and live closer to nature" type book, while using Y2K as the excuse, not the reason. As such it is a pretty good book for home preparation for pretty much any disaster (they look forward to Y2K, saying "Y2K gives us an opportunity to reassess how we are living our lives"),

or how to set up your backwoods or self-sufficient home to live off the grid or at least as lightly on the earth as possible.

The final word here is this is not really a Y2K per se, but a home preparation/renewable energy guide, and as such stands up well. For anyone who wants to get off the grid or have a better prepared home.

"Y2K You Can't Avoid It! An Action Plan to Protect Yourself, Your Family, Your Assets and Your Community on JANUARY 1, 2000" by Victor W. Portier, (HarperCollins, 1999, 7" x 5 1/2", 177 pages).

This book is for the city dwellers who never leave pavement. This isn't surprising as Portier is the director of the Center for Civic Renewal in New York City, but as a "rural dweller" (as us small town, don't need a village to raise our kids, hicks are called repeatedly), I did get a bit of a laugh at the "us big city slickers vs. small town hicks" condescension that shines through.

Firearms and self-defense are only lightly touched on, but as the first half of the book is 27 chapters of two to three pages and the second half being the Master Checklists, this isn't surprising. Self-defense is "Learn to defend yourself in a manner that suits your personal values". The firearms listed in the checklist section were actually very good and I have recommended many of these arms myself, but the usual "them vs. us, looking down on the unwashed masses" comes shining through, "Hunting game is widely practiced by people who live in the country and small towns. One is not going to find deer or game birds in the cities. A shotgun to protect your home is one thing, a deer-hunting rifle is another." To finish off the firearms section (.22 rifles, pump shotguns, hunting rifles - bolt action, hunting rifles - semi-automatic), he states "any decision on owning a weapon, and which one, should be based on your own research and philosophy."

The last word here is yes, this is a worth while book. It covers many subjects and ideas (admittedly in two to three pages each) not often thought of or mentioned in other books. The "checklist", "bibliography" (list of recommended books) and "products and services" section were excellent.

"THE MILLENNIUM MELTDOWN - Year 2000 Computer Crisis" by Grant R. Jeffery, (Frontier Research Publications, 1999, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2", 249 pages, no index).

This is a who, what, why, where, and how of Y2K meltdown, but nil to no what, why, where and how to survive the meltdown, other than "have faith, God will provide" and not "God helps those who help themselves".

Bottom line here is this is an excellent over view of what could have happened, but didn't, with no practical/useful information on surviving it.

"The Y2K SURVIVAL GUIDE - Getting to, Getting Through, and Getting Past the Year 2000 Problem" by Bruce F. Webster (Prentice4 Hall, 1999, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2", 544 pages).

Like "The Millennium Meltdown", and several others, this book has lots and lots of who, what, why, where and how Y2K will screw up your life, but everything will be OK if you follow the usual advice given out constantly (which is good advice, don't get me wrong, otherwise it

wouldn't be given out all the time, but for The End Of The World As We Know It?!), get out of debt, buy a weeks worth of food, getting paper back up of all your papers and documents like birth certificate, drivers license, Social Security card, etc., which is what he lists under the chapter heading of "Defending Your Life"! Defending your life? What, throwing photo-copies at your attacker?! That's IT, nothing practical! Guns have one single line in the whole book, "Self-reliance does not mean buying yourself an armed compound somewhere out in the badlands" but hoping someone else will be armed and save your sorry ass.

Bottom line? While this is easily the biggest, longest Y2K book being reviewed here, it is also one of the least useful. Webster talks a lot, but never actually said anything worth hearing.

"THE HIPPY survival guide to Y2K" by Mike Oehler (Keokee Co., 1999, 8 1/2" x 6", 279 pages, no index).

Mike Oehler has accurately been called "a has been that never was" and "a legend in his own mind", which is well proven with the first 152 pages of this book. The first 152 pages are a count down, starting with "638 Days Left Before Year 2000" on down to "366 Days Left Before Year 2000". The count down is filled with such amazing observations as "467 Days Left... The Yankees end their regular season with 114 wins." Wow. Hard hitting and insightful information there. On page 212, the "Silver Bullet Solutions" section, Mike states "Much of the material in this section and appendix A are philosophy and political", which means useless/worthless, as are the first 152 pages of the book.

Bottom line? With a total of 55 pages of (sort of/semi) useful information and the rest being left-wing ranting, rambling and inanity, Mike once again lives up to his reputation as a has been that never was and legend in his own mind.

"The Year 2000 Computer Crisis - An Investor's SURVIVAL GUIDE" by Tony Keyes (Y2K Investor, 1997, 8 1/2" x 6", 314 pages, no index).

With such advice as "in a financial crisis, cash is king! True, but it's not quite that simple. Liquidity is the goal, and that is of no use unless your funds will be safe", it is clear Tony only expects a 1929 style meltdown and not a collapse of society. Tony recommends silver over gold from a standpoint of utility and leverage, mining stocks, precious metals mutual funds, bonds.

Final word? Worthless.

"Y2K FAMILY SURVIVAL GUIDE" by Jerry MacGregor and Kirk Charles (Harvest House, 1999, 8" x 5 1/2", 253 pages, no index).

OK, survival lite here, but not afraid of to use the "S" word, survival, which the other books go to pains to avoid using. While the defense/weapons section is "get to know your neighbors", "install dead bolts on all your exterior doors", and "learn to defend yourself in a way which is congruent with your personal philosophy", they do go on to state "this is exactly the reason our founding fathers assured us of the Constitutional Right to Bear Arms." I also especially liked "The Two-to-Three Day Plan / The One-Month Plan / The One-Year Plan / Your Y2k Planning Guide" for most chapters so you can fast forward to things.

So what do I think? This is not an in-depth book by any means, but it covers a lot to get you

thinking, although sanitation is barely mentioned. Worth reading and not out of place on your book shelf today.

"Boston On Surviving Y2k and Other Lovely Disasters" by Boston T. Party (Javelin Press, 1999, 352 pages, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2").

"Boston On Surviving Y2K" is not an actual Y2K book, but a disaster preparedness manual. The timing worked such that it was finished just before the Y2K non-event, so Boston (aka Kenneth Royce) slapped "Y2K" on the cover which came back to bite him in the rear. As this was not a "the computers are crashing, run for cover!" type "real" or "official" Y2K book, as silly as that sounds, not enough people bought it, and after Y2K fizzled, no one wanted anything with Y2K on it, so he was stuck with them. Check out his web site at javelinpress.com, as he was selling the remaining issues at half price. This is also the Military Book Club "book of the month", with a few lines changed on two pages, so the Military Book Club could have an "exclusive". The Military Book Club is NOT recommended however. Over priced, too much crap, rip-off shipping charges. If that was not enough, they sell and promote Duncan Long books, which are Long on BS and short on facts. Enough said!

Final thoughts? If you can find this book, especially at half price for a new copy, BUY IT! I recommend all of Boston's books, especially YOU & THE POLICE (1996, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2", 128 pages), BOSTON'S GUN BIBLE (2000, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2", 726 pages) and his first fictional novel MOLON LABE. Check out javelinpress.com for current prices and offerings.

"Y2K: THE DAY THE WORLD SHUT DOWN - A Novel By Michael Hyatt and George Grant" (Word Publishing, 1998, 8 1/2" x 6", 265 pages).

"Y2K; The Day..." isn't bad, and has a sort of "Christian" leaning, but it isn't the heavy handed or beat you over the head with it type you so often find in "religious" books. Naturally the so called "hero" of the book is a mixed race and they promote anti-Biblical race mixing, again it is not heavy handed and hit you over the head with it, but race mixing lite. Like INDEPENDENCE DAY, et al, where a black and a Jew save White America, wouldn't it be fine if we all got along and all humans were just a mud colored mongrol race with no race?

Final word? Readable but not really good.



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CARING FOR GAME MEAT

by Corcceigh Green

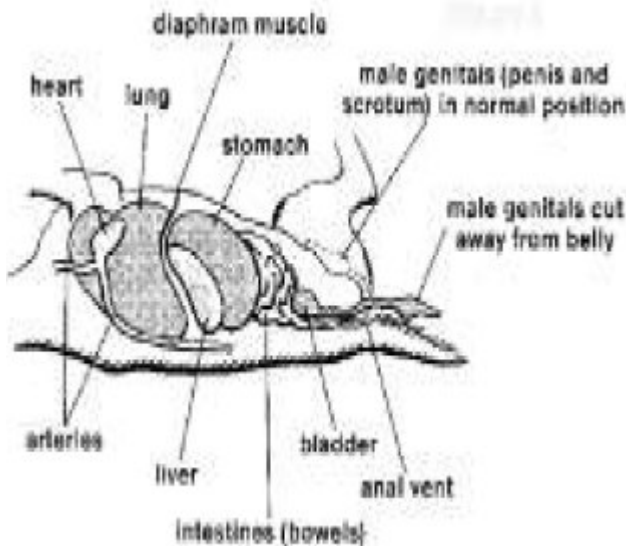


Moving silently through the dim twilight, a western 5 point buck whitetail presents an excellent shot for a hunter. Once you have your meat, you must take care to properly process it so as not to waste any of the magnificent animal that has sacrificed it's life so that you and your family may eat.

The first procedure in processing your meat is to cool it down as quickly as possible. This begins when you open the carcass and remove the hide. Using a good skinning knife with a sharp point, puncture just the skin near the

genitals. Continue to cut the skin, cutting around the genitals until the skin of the area is no longer attached.

With the blade of your knife facing upwards from the abdominal wall, cut a slit through the abdomen, exposing the internals from the anus to the neck. You will also need to open the chest. Some use an axe to split the sternum. Others, myself included, will use a good knife to cut through the tough cartilage of the rib cage on one side of the sternum. Bring a file and honing stones and a few extra knives. Skinning and gutting will dull your knives relatively quickly.



With the carcass open, remove the internals, saving some organs such as the heart, liver and kidneys for your use or your pets' use. Your pets will love these treats if you don't yourself and a deer liver will save you some dollars at the pet food counter. To transport your organ meat, place them in cheese cloth or game bags and tie them shut.

After you have removed the obvious internal organs, you must remove the wind pipe. If left where it is in the deer, the wind pipe will prevent the circulation of air around the neck and upper torso meat. This will keep the meat from cooling and promote

spoilage. Cut the wind pipe as high up on the neck as possible, cut the tough ligaments holding it in place toward the deer's clavicle and pull it from the neck.

At this point, you may remove the hide or, if you are close enough to your car, camp or home, you may carry the deer to your destination. At camp or home, you will need to skin your animal. Hanging your deer makes skinning very easy. Some like to hang the deer from the hind legs and work toward the head. I like to hang the deer head up and work toward the hind legs. It is just easier for me to work through the tail and hind quarters when skinning downward in this manner.

After the hide has been removed, you may wish to cool the meat quickly, especially if you are still at camp and it is a ways to your home. Some hunters will accomplish this by immersing the carcass in a stream. This certainly cools the meat wonderfully and gives it a wash for good measure. However, this will contaminate the water with animal blood and feces, not to mention the possibility of diseases and bacteria. This is also illegal in many areas for the above reasons and, after all, we are Constitutionally responsible for our actions and this includes what we put in the water.

Resist the urge to cool down your meat in a stream and use a bucket or your canteen cup to carry water to the carcass. If your meat needs some washing due to dirt, twigs, and plant leaves, pour the water over the carcass and use a sponge to help remove the contaminants. You will need to pour liberally to rinse, but that's what you want to cool your meat anyway.

If you have taken your deer in the early season, you may have some trouble with insects. Blowflies and yellow jackets will be attracted to your meat. Blowflies will lay eggs on the meat, while yellow jackets and other fly species will begin making a feast of your meat. Beside eating your meat, yellow jackets will stubbornly stick to your meat while you are working at removing the hide or cutting up the meat. When your hands run over one of these stubborn insects, they will sting. Unlike bees, yellow jackets do not lose their stingers. They will continue to stand their ground and sting as long as they are alive and have meat to contend over.

To prevent the disease and trouble insects can bring, take along some black pepper on your hunting trip. When you've removed the hide, rub the black pepper into your meat. The smell of black pepper overwhelms insects and disguises the smell of meat. This will drastically reduce the amount of insects you will need to deal with while processing your meat.

Unless it is late in the season and the weather is cold (below 40 degrees), you will need to transport your meat to your home or a place where you can hang your meat. Actually, this is more properly termed "aging" your meat. This is a process where your meat will hang in a controlled environment for five to ten days while natural enzymes in the meat will break down the muscle fibers and tenderize your venison. Actually, I find a period of five days to be perfect for aging. Any longer and you do run the risk of bacterial contamination.

Age your meat in a cooler. My neighbors have a large walk-in cooler that can handle at least three elk at a time. If you cannot afford to build one of these for yourself, you might purchase a used refrigerator. You will have to cut your meat up and bone it for it to fit, but this is a solution that will fit the budget of most. Another solution is to quarter your deer, remove the shelves from your spare refrigerator and hang your deer in there while you cut up your meat to make a better fit. For this solution to work, you will have to cut your meat before you age it or as it is aging.

Whether you cut up your meat before, during or after you age it, you will need to cut it into portions. These portions are known as "cuts" and correspond to the cuts of meat that you'd buy in a butcher shop. (If you are old enough to remember those days.) You will need some basic equipment to make your cuts. First, a good butcher block comes in very handy. This need be only

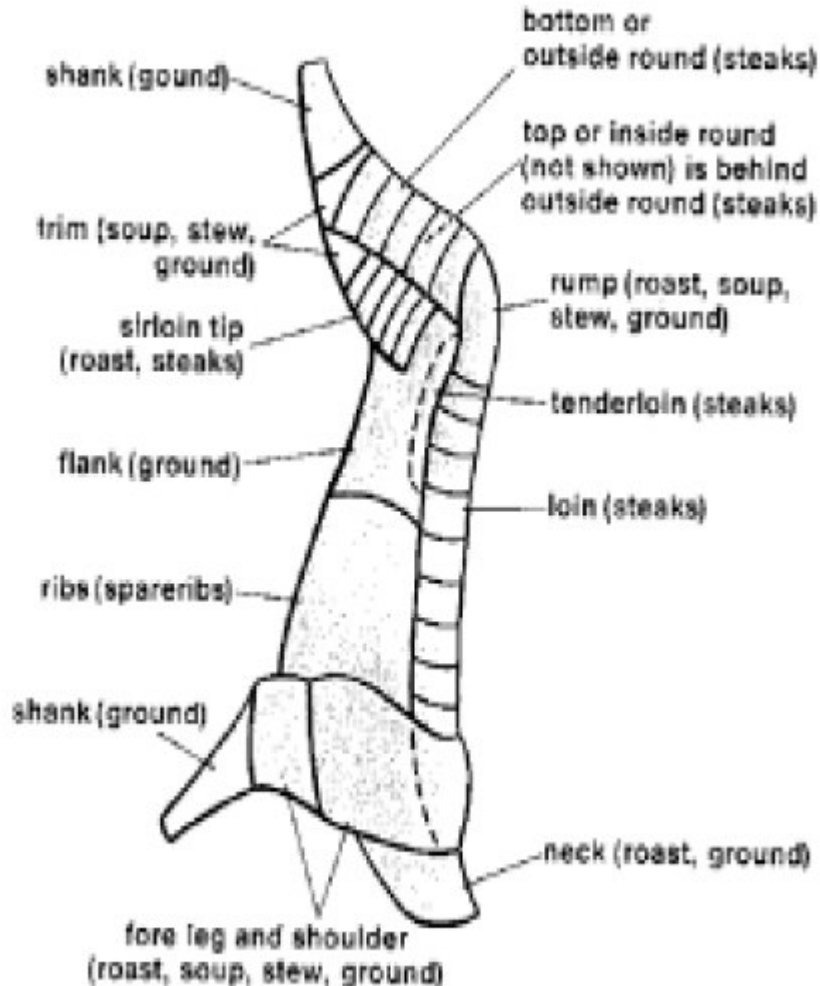
a table with a sturdy top that you can cut meat on. Try to find one that reaches at least to your waist. One that is as high as your navel is better. You will be doing a lot of cutting. It may take you two full days to get the job done, depending on the size of the animal and the level of help you have on hand. During this time, you will develop some serious cricks in your bones if you need to lean over your butcher's block to a great degree. To make butchering your deer an experience without pain, invest in a butcher's block that fits your body.

Next is a good set of knives. Again, you will dull a good many knives while making your cuts. Three or four of the same sets of knives will make butchering an easier chore. The types of

knives you will need

are butcher's knives, boning knives and meat cleavers.

Contrary to popular belief, you will not be chopping with a meat cleaver. Until you need to freeze your meat, the meat cleaver will serve you as a cutting tool used to slice round into steaks and the back strap into



stew meat. The butcher's knife will be used to separate meat cuts and to cut ground from ribs and bone. The boning knife is self explanatory. To cut a good round steak from the hind quarter, cut a thin section of meat all the way around the hind quarter with a butcher knife or cleaver, then use the boning knife on the inside of the cut to cut the leg bone away from the meat. When the meat has been separated, lift the cut up and over the bone. This is a round steak and the purpose your boning knife will serve.

Remember to keep plenty of each type of knife on hand. They will dull after some use. Files and honing stones should also be kept at the ready during butchering. As mentioned, cuts of meat will

correspond with what you would expect to see in a butcher shop.

For venison, I prefer to ground most of the meat for hamburger. This will include all of the meat from the forelegs, shoulders, shanks and ribs. I use the neck as roasts. The meat from the back straps to the hind quarters I cube into stew meat.

For elk, I follow nearly the same procedure, except I prefer to cut several steaks from the hind quarters and back straps. The neck, I utilize, again, as roast. The shoulders contain some nice steaks and the ribs make excellent bar b q. Of course, I always hold some back for ground.

Some utilize a meat saw to cut steak right through the bone. I find this unnecessary as I prefer to bone the steak with the boning knife as described earlier. The marrow and fat of game animals has too gamey a taste to make use of, therefore, I bone the meat and discard the bone unless I am using the bone in craft projects or tool making.

When cutting steaks and stew meat, cut across the muscle grain. Making cuts in this manner will help tenderize the meat by eliminating long, muscle fibers which are tough to chew. This includes the tenderloins, or the meat taken from inside the abdominal cavity connected at the hips and running to the beginning of the thorax region. Cut these like steak or back strap, thin cuts against the grain. Wrapped in bacon and broiled or grilled, these cuts make very tasty venison or elk fillet mignon.

Trim all of the fat from your cuts. Game fat does not taste well and becomes extremely tallowy, that is it sticks together and clings to the pallet making it hard to swallow. The more fat that is removed, the better tasting your meat will be. You can further tenderize your meat with a tenderizing mallet. Place your steak cuts between two pieces of wax paper and smack it repeatedly with the mallet until you've smacked every inch a few times. Wash each cut after you have processed it and wrap it for the freezer or for the refrigerator if aging is needed.

Venison and elk render dry meat. This makes cooking over a fire and other dry heat cooking unfavorable methods for preparation. Some meats, such as bear, are extremely bland and carry no taste at all. For this reason, moist cooking, such as boiling and cooking the meats into stews, soups and chili is necessary for most cuts of wild game meat.

Boiling for a relatively lengthy period renders venison and elk meat tender. When boiled with culinary herbs, the meat will take on some of the flavor of the herbs. This will make your game meat quite tasty and will have no gamey taste. Herbs that best help the flavor of game meat is mint, parsley, ginger and garlic these four are especially helpful with bland bear meats. These four herbs are also very helpful with other game as well. Beside these, paprika, mustard leaf and ground seed, chili and cayenne peppers, sweet pepper and black pepper all work well with venison, elk and bear meats as well as small game like raccoon and opossum.

Beside herbs, game meat is helped greatly by other ingredients such as vinegar, alcoholic beverages and citrus fruit and juices. The above is used mainly in marinades and help to tenderize and increase the moisture content of the meat. This is important for venison steaks. Boiling is great for many venison dishes, but you just don't boil steaks! Steaks must be grilled or bar b qued. Some will argue for broiling, but my steaks are grilled over western vine maple and alder or slow cooked over their coals. Yes, I do use mesquite and hickory when I can get them, but vine maple and alder grow in my area and I can get these any time I need cooking wood. The wood smoke adds flavor to the meat.

To marinate your steaks, place them in a broiling pan and pour your marinade over them and let them soak overnight in the refrigerator. When lunch or supper time rolls around, your steaks will be ready for the grill and will be more tender and moist. Cubed stew meat can also be treated in this manner and will yield a more tender stew meat.

Sitting down at the table to chomp on your meal should be a pleasant experience and there's no reason that your meat should taste gamey or be tough to chew. The above game meat care techniques will help you enjoy your wild meals immensely.

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TWILIGHT

PUG MAHONE

Before the darkness of night becomes a pitch black, there are degrees of darkness that bring blacker shades as the face of the land loses it's source of light. When the sun sinks below the rim of the earth, a cold twilight comes over the land.

Would you resort to violence to uphold and defend the Constitution? This is a question being asked by federal agencies of people involved in the truth and patriotic movements. It is meant to be a tactic to intimidate those who are asking relevant questions of those who are pretending to be elected representatives. Federal agents ratchet up their intimidation as the not too veiled threat of considering those being questioned as making threats of violence against government "officials." The Constitution is the written law that lawfully describes how the federal government is to operate. It is the tactic of the patriotic and truth movements to show "officials" and others how they are breaking that written law. It is now the counter-tactic of the secret service and other federal agencies to intimidate those who quote the Constitution with veiled threats that they may be considered terrorists under the "Home Grown Terrorist and Radicalization Act" and the mis-named PATRIOT Act.

Let's consider the state of affairs. Suppose you are sleeping sound one night. You and your wife are snuggled in bed, the kids are down the hall in their respective rooms sound asleep, when you suddenly here a noise in the living room. You awake, alert your wife and arm yourself. You take your handgun and your wife grabs the shotgun and positions herself behind the bed. As you stealthily move down your hall, you check the kids' rooms and make sure they are safe. You continue to hear noise in the living room and move to the area low and against one wall. As you enter the room and slice the pie, you find an intruder. He is ransacking your home and stuffing your most prized possessions in his bag.

The intruder notices you and turns to look at you. In one hand is your family Bible. He speaks and says, "You don't need this. This book is full of radical ideas. It contains words that make others practicing 'alternate lifestyles' uncomfortable and promotes hate." He thrusts your Bible into his bag and continues when he grabs your computer and printer from your desk. "This is a device for mindless entertainment." he says, "Not to be used the way you are abusing it by posting blogs, researching and networking with others about issues concerning your government, which are not your business." Into the bag it goes. Out comes the phone from the wall. "This is to keep in touch with family and for emergency use." the miscreant continues, "Your political activism is not why the government allows you to play with these devices." The phone is stuffed into the bag. The home-breaker, then makes his way to your book shelf. "Just look at all of the agitating titles on this shelf." he exclaims. "The Federalist Papers, The Constitution, The Citizens Rule Book, The Public Papers Of Thomas Jefferson and even more! These concepts are hundreds of years old and out of date for today's society. This kind of radical freedom is no longer what America is all about. These have to go." The criminal sweeps every title into his bag. Grabbing your address book from the coffee table, the scumsucker says, "The people in here are a bunch of activists and agitators that you conspire with to terrorize your leaders by threatening them with not voting for them and campaigning against them. That's 'paper terrorism'. You're lucky that you're not going to jail for that." In goes the address book.

If you haven't already shot the bugger, you gradually recover from the shock of the criminal's bravado and order him to stop what he is doing and lay face down on the floor with his hands and feet apart. "Oh no you don't!" is the reply you get. "I'm only taking the things that are getting you into trouble. This is for your own welfare and I am acting on behalf of your government. Are you going to use force to protect your perceived rights? Now, don't be a fool and hand over that gun!"

With your most prized possessions in a criminal's bag are you going to relinquish the only possessions you have left to protect your others? My answer to any criminal asking if I would use force to uphold and defend my life, liberty and property is, YES!!! My answer to any criminal asking me if I would use force or violence to defend my country is YES!!! Make no mistake! The Constitution is the law that creates our country. There is no difference between the country and the Constitution. It makes our country what it is. At a time when we have soldiers in foreign lands fighting, killing, dying and using violence to supposedly protect our country, it is very stupid to suggest that one should not use violence to defend his country.

If a criminal breaks into my home I consider him dangerous and would shoot the scum. The state of affairs above is very similar to the state of affairs in our once great land. A criminal that breaks into your home and begins taking your possessions is similar to a criminal that sneaks his way into public office and takes your Rights and violates the highest law of this land. Your possession of certain unalienable Rights like that of freedom of worship is similar to your possession of a Bible. Your printer and computer is similar to freedom of the press. Your use of a computer and telephone to network is similar to your Right to assemble. Your library and your interaction with your congresscritters is similar to your freedom of speech and your Right to petition government for redress of grievance. All of the above Rights can be found in one amendment to the Constitution. I'm not going to tell you which one. I want you to read your Constitution and find it yourself.

Your ability to protect yourself is no mystery. Article II of The Bill Of Rights states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." The Right to keep and bear arms is a recognized Right of the people as is the Right of the people to assemble into militias for the purpose of defending a free State. So, what is it that defines what a free State is? You guessed it. The Constitution. What is it that needs to be defended by the people? Yep. The Constitution.

What do you do when your home is under attack and you've confronted the home-breaker and he claims to be there for your welfare while stealing your possessions, then moves toward you to disarm you? I'd shoot the scum. I would use violence to protect my life, my family and my property. As Americans (or Amerikans) are asked to make sacrifice and use violence in service to their country, why shouldn't the Constitution, the very heart of the country, be defended with violence, if necessary? What the heck kind of dumb A-hole would ask an American to defend his country, but not the Constitution? Would you use violence to defend your life, liberty and property from criminals? What about those criminals that broke into public office to violate the Constitution? Looks like we'd all better be asking that question of ourselves, then preparing ourselves to stick by our decision and face the consequences of it. It is they who are bringing the question to us. No one in the freedom/truth/patriot movement has threatened violence except in self defense.

If you are willing to use violence to defend the Constitution, you had darn well better be willing to be politically active in defense of the Constitution. If you conceive of a time when you may

need to pick up a rifle so that this country (under the Constitution) does not perish, then you must concede that this country is now in peril. Should affairs become so bad that you will need to resort to violence to defend the Constitution, you will be in a desperate state. Your best bet for survival and the survival of the country is to defeat the enemy before the violence begins. That means being active now in promoting and helping American candidates and statesmen, while working to defeat socialist/communist/anti-American politicians and their anti-American legislation and policies. It also means educating yourself and others as to what America's real government is and how it is defined in the Constitution. We are going to start doing something about that in this column. In future issues expect to read about the structure of the Constitution and real American government.

In the meantime, read the founding documents for yourself. To many, they don't make sense or are too hard to understand. You can chock your lack of understanding up to the lack of education in the public schools and the conflict you will see between the founding documents and the way government is run in the nation's and State capitals. We'll begin to clear this up for you in those future issues.

Get involved in the political process. You'll need to look into the campaigns of the various candidates. Research not only what these guys are saying, but look into their voting records and the actions they took in their political careers. Don't keep the information you've uncovered to yourself. Let everyone know what you've found from your research. Write letters to the editors of local and regional papers. Start a mailing list and publish a newsletter. Post your findings in forums and on the internet. Focus on federal representatives, presidential campaigns and your local representatives as well as judicial offices (prosecuting attorney, judges, etc.). There is so much corruption within today's political scene that you may not be able to cover everything. If this is the case for you, focus on your own political district and expand upon national politics only on presidential, Senate and House election years. Except for presidential campaigns, you may need to focus only on your own political districts during federal elections.

2008 is a presidential election year that should be easy on new timers becoming politically active. There is only one presidential candidate that is an American statesman. Ron Paul is the only candidate who is running on a platform of a return to a constitutional government, reign in out of control bureaucracies, abolish the IRS and begin a recovery of America's Constitutional Republic. It's about time! Ron Paul is a no brainer for the political novice. Check out his campaign at www.ronpaul2008.com. There are many ways to become involved in his campaign and get the word out about how we can restore this nation to it's roots as a Constitutional Republic. It is absolutely imperative that we work to get Ron Paul's message out. The mainstream media is working hard to keep his candidacy and phenomenal success as quiet as it possibly can. He has already forced many issues that un-American politicians and media pundits wanted ignored into public consciousness. That in itself is a small success, but we must complete the victory by keeping the issues and the message of returning to constitutional government in the public's minds. Remember to network, write letters and talk to others about the real issues and Ron Paul's campaign.

This brings us around to some very important facts concerning your survival. Your efforts in the political arena and Ron Paul's campaign is quite probably the last hope that We The People can reign in an out of control criminal government without violence. Even though we have a chance at retaking government, there are some dangers that may arise should Ron Paul's campaign be successful. One is that the criminals stand a good chance of actually losing this political contest. These buggers are not just going to go away and relinquish all of the ill gotten powers they stole

from the American people. They will do anything to hang on to that power. That includes declaring an emergency and suspending the Constitution, staged terrorist attacks, political assassinations and murder.

Beside being politically active, you will need to be active in preparing to survive a totalitarian clamp-down from a government that can no longer tolerate the free expression of ideas. You could find yourself on top of the FBI's most wanted list for criticizing government policy and advocating a return to constitutional law. This could mean a situation where you are on the run and hunted without support or you may find yourself within an underground minority of outlawed freedom activists or the country may find itself in a full blown civil war.

As with any survival situation, the best method for survival is through preparation. Your number one priority in preparation is to research the techniques necessary to survive in a totalitarian regime. Read some of the stories of defectors and dissenters behind the iron curtain. Most of those stories were of people who escaped to the west. America's story will be of those who prepared for and executed proper resistance. You'll need to study and train for survival, escape and evasion techniques and guerilla warfare techniques. You'll need to cache supplies and become familiar with a fade-back area which can support you and a small group of patriots. If you didn't get a copy of LMI Newsletter September-October 2007, I'd suggest you order a copy now! The above issue covers some of the best tactics in resistance planning you can find. I am told there is more coming on the subject as circumstances all over America are becoming more urgent.

That's a lot to mull over for this issue. Remember, your assignment for the next two months is to prepare yourself to properly defend the Constitution. Your mind-set will contribute to this. Don't put up with the veiled threats and the lies that those who would defend their country and Constitution are 'home grown terrorists'. Criminals who break the highest law of our land and steal your Rights are no different than home intruders who break into your house and steal your possessions. Before you have to pick up a gun to defend your country, become active in helping candidates who will restore proper law and order and reign in government to ensure that law is obeyed. Learn your true form of government by studying the founding documents and know when government is overstepping it's bounds. Prepare and train now for when you have no choice but to retreat into the sticks, evade and actively resist tyrannical oppression with any means at hand. A stronger populous who is shown to be willing and able to do this can avoid or even prevent such government hostilities. It is up to you, individually, right now. As more individuals awaken and begin to become active in restoring the Constitutional Republic you will grow into groups, then communities. If we work now, tirelessly, toward our goal of freedom and liberty we will soon become a nation again. That's it for this installment. Next issue, we will begin to look at the structure and meaning of the Constitution. Do your homework now and get busy. Good luck.

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Tom From New England's
Northeast Notes

Salvage vs. Looting Discussion

I monitor a few survivalist bulletin boards on the Internet. On one of them, a discussion came up on the difference between salvage and looting. It started with this: The tsunami brings thought of what would I do if...a disaster of huge magnitude hits your area...thousands of dead, lots of injured and dazed people, many homeless...you and family managed to get yourselves with survival gear including fairly comfortable shelter in a safe position...sooner or later you are going to venture out...my question being you venture out before order is restored and you have no idea if and when it will be...there in the middle of what was a street is a case of Hormel Chili...case is wet but otherwise looks in pretty good shape...do you take it?...if you take it do you consider it looting? probably came from the store that was destroyed...don't know if the "rightful owner" even survived....how far would one go with "salvaging" before considering it looting?...if you had ample supplies "salvaged" would you share with other survivors? or perhaps finders keepers?...how about if you "found" remains from a drug store that contained insulin and heart meds, no one in your group is a diabetic or has heart problems, leave it for someone who can use it or take it anyway?

Another individual added his two cents worth, and replied thusly: You gotta be ready to deal w/situation or you're dead....If it's that bad and you are contemplating doing the unthinkable chances are everyone else is too or they have already started and you're adjusting accordingly. So there you have it. Polite manners and a "good day sir" won't cut it ..You can't bring a knife to a gun fight. But when it's that bad what will you do to survive? Would I put a .45 to the head of someone that was armed w/ only a baseball bat that was guarding his family and a stock of meds that would save my son's life? Sure would. Those meds would be mine. If the entire situation was that bad there would be no reindeer games of barter or trade...Don't get me wrong I don't condone or am I suggesting marauding to hoard supplies and to pillage and plunder...

A big part of survivalism is about being prepared. This means thinking through what you might need if the existing infrastructure collapses, and making sure you have enough to get by until things stabilize again. This time period may be a few days, or a few years. Likewise, it could take you a few years to get to the point where you could reach an adequate level of preparedness and more importantly self-sufficiency. That is what it is all about. Become independent enough from "the system" so that you don't have to worry if it collapses. When you start getting to this point, you wind up moving to a rural area if you haven't already. This helps you to maintain a sustainable lifestyle, and

usually puts you near people with the same idea (more or less). As you start practicing a sustainable lifestyle, you will become attracted to certain country-type hobbies that you can use for trade. Perhaps you find that your thing is gardening, or maybe small engine repair. Your neighbor on the other hand is into chickens. Both of you are members of the same 4-H chapter. When you realize just what a prolific and fecund weed Zucchini is, you'll be trading it with your neighbor who has more damn eggs than he knows what to do with. Your other neighbor is into hunting and trapping. His quad and lawn tractor both need a tune-up, and he happens to have a couple extra pounds of venison that he'd be happy to part with. Here is the important part: There are very few "problems" that this country could go through that would change this. Country folk have been practicing this local underground economy for generations, and will continue to do so. Most rural people also distrust and dislike government "experts" who think they have to come in and try to "fix" something that isn't broken.

The sustainable lifestyle in a rural area is what survivalists should aim for as their eventual goal. It beats living in a city among the sheeple, and hoping that you'll be able to bug out if TSHTF. It also beats attempting to live like a refugee, or a brigand. That brings me to the next matter that I need to point out. The individual in the second message is under the belief that he will simply be able to take what he needs from other people if the situation becomes desperate enough. Think again. If one takes the proper steps to practice a sustainable lifestyle in a rural area, getting something you might be lacking in would be easy enough to do in a civilized manner via trade/barter. The local pharmacist/doctor/veterinarian will probably be around and will have need of certain products and services you might be able to provide. If you are into gardening, perhaps it will be certain medicinal herbs that you can grow. Attempting to steal something by force, no matter how desperate your need, will likely result in your demise.

As I progressed further in my self-reliance and preparedness education, I came to the conclusion that the TEOTWAWKI situation is unlikely as a nation-wide scenario. What is occurring right now is a general and gradual breakdown. That is the reality of the situation. The way for the intelligent survivalist to handle this is to move someplace where they can start living the lifestyle of self reliance and preparedness right now. Don't wait for something to happen so you can "bug out" for the hills. If you are living someplace such as a large city that is full of "the government will help me" sheeple-types, that place does not deserve you, and you should relocate. This step will reduce or eliminate all sorts of "what if" scenarios. It will help you live a happier and healthier lifestyle. It will also contribute greatly to your self-reliance and preparedness posture, which is what the hobby of survivalism is all about.

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