

## The Redrock Readiness Newsletter

Episode 11: Of Plans and Team Players

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“Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.”

--Ezekiel 38:7

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Now you have all this stuff! Great! Sooooo now what do you do with it?

If all you have is the preparation stuff, you only have half the formula. While it's fantastic that you won't have to throw items together during a crisis, you'll need to **get a plan together—starting with a team.**

The further out that you can plan more ahead of time, the more secure your piece of mind, and when you feel secure, you'll be able to make better and more informed decisions. Part of that includes knowing that you won't be alone! And also knowing what kind of people you'll be working together with.

You might get with 3 or 4 of your closest friends (preferably in the ward), sit down one evening and talk about what you guys think you should do when trouble comes to town. At the very least, start some sort of discourse.

There are many advantages in getting a team together before the fact:

- You can look out for each other.
- You'll be with like-minded people.
- Your moral support will be stronger.
- If needed, you could chip in as a group and buy bigger items to share, like a stove.
- Many hands make light work—and can help get things done by sharing roles that may need to be filled.

It may not be a bad idea to feel out your neighbors—do it discreetly so you don't advertise to the world—but it could be worth investing time to see if they'd make a good addition to your team. Do you feel like you could trust them in a crazy situation?

Other things to consider:

Figure out **how you'll get in contact with each other** should the unthinkable happen. Remember, during events like 9/11 or Hurricane Katrina, cellphone networks were jammed and power was knocked out.

**Determine a common rally point** where all of you can meet up. If communications go down, you'll feel better knowing that everyone will be heading towards a previously-agreed upon spot.

So the next question comes down to: **should you stay or should you go?**

We can only give general info about what to do because **no one (except Heavenly Father) can predict what the next upside-down situation will be!** Oftentimes, staying in and laying low in your home will be the best thing to do. Other times, getting out of dodge will make more sense.

Beau: Keep in mind, leaving may not be as easy as you think. For instance, the Utah Department of Public Safety (Highway Patrol) has longstanding plans in place to shut down the highways leading in to Utah in event of natural disaster. That'll certainly make getting home to Provo to your folks a little complicated!

If you ultimately decide to strike out for greener pastures, some things you need to keep in mind are:

- Safety** in numbers & security!
- Moving** everyone simultaneously. Keep in mind, too, the larger your car, the less maneuverable it'll be on a road full of other folks who want to leave.
- Fuel:** are you sure it'll be available along your route? How will you carry it if you do buy it?
- Most importantly, think about **how you'll provide** for everyone, pets included!

Beau: Please don't leave your little fuzzy buddies behind!

- **Distance** involved – will you have to refuel, and if so how will you pay for it? Some people recommend keeping **two weeks' worth of cash on-hand...**

Danielle: ...But given some of the things we're hearing on the news, we kind of wonder how things'll get paid for if currency is no longer worth anything! We live in a complicated world now, don't we?

**Don't be afraid to think outside the box** when it comes to...well, everything—evacuation routes, tool usage, etc.

The question of staying, going, and what you'll do afterwards—**it's a huge topic, folks.** We recommend you **research things for yourself**—reading accounts from survivors of Hurricane Katrina, for example, can be very eye-opening!

**It's vital you educate yourself, keep calm, and stay close to the Spirit so you can receive inspiration about what to do.**

Until next week, be smart and stay safe!



Hey everyone! Just taking a break between my rigorous training naps to remind you that the **Provident Living Fair** is coming up! You oughta go—after all, Beau and Danielle are going, AND it's gonna have a class on **Pet Preparedness**, yeaaaaah! And some other classes on **job searches** and **emergency food supplies** and stuff.

Class description and the address and stuff is on their website!