

The Redrock Readiness Newsletter

Episode 17: Grab Bag

“While it is sincerely hoped that members do not get caught up in any hysteria or obsessive preparations for disasters, the Church continues its long-standing practice of encouraging members to be self-reliant and reasonably prepared.”

—Bishop H. David Burton, Presiding Bishop, “Conversation,” Ensign, Sept. 1999, 78.

Hello, Ward Family! Another week has gone by. **Operators are standing by to receive your replies to the survey we sent out last week.** Once again—what do you need? What do you want to see? Where are you at in the preparedness arena? We’re happy to help!

In the meantime, we’ve been trolling through various websites and digging up tips that’ll help you be just a bit more prepared. **Preparedness isn’t a one-size-fits-all deal**, however, so **make sure you think about your needs and plans** as you sift through what we’ve found.

Use The Good Chinet. We *love* this tip. Some emergencies (earthquake!!) are likely to wreck your fancy dishes. But if you **have paper plates and plastic utensils on hand**, you’ll have something to eat off of—but even if your fine china is in fine condition the HUGE advantage of disposable picnicware is that **you won’t have to use your water supply to wash ‘em!**

A 96-hour Kit? If you’re going to all the trouble of a 72 hour supply, why not go the extra mile and have **an extra 24 hours of supplies on hand**—a 96-hour supply! In some past emergencies, it’s taken up to a week to get serious help in the area. You may even want to go all out and do a solid week.

Two is One and One is None.

Some spares items you may not have considered:

- Spare consecrated oil
- Spare glasses or contact lenses
- Spare meds
- Copied important documents (actual and or on a thumb drive)...in a waterproof baggie, perhaps?

Fuel Rules.

Danielle: My mom advised me some time ago to **never let my gas tank get below the ¼ mark.** “Pretend that mark is empty and make sure you go fill up.” Other folks advise you to **keep your tank at least half-full.** For some of our budgets, this may a delicacy akin to *unicorn milk ice cream*. But if you can make it work, it’d probably be worth it if you ever had to get out of Dodge in a hurry.

Beau: It's helpful to have **an additional 5-gallon fuel can**--or even a 2-gallon one, depending on how big your vehicle and tank is. **If you want to store fuel long-term, you need to add fuel stabilizer to it.** This liquid can be bought at most auto shops. Follow the directions on the bottle.

The "What-if" Game. Sometimes thinking up an emergency plan can be intimidating. But you may find your creativity comes to life if you treat it like a game. While Netflix loads, ask your roommates or family—"What if there were no water? No electricity? No gas?" **What would you do? How would you get things done?** The answers y'all come up with may surprise you!

Fight Fire with FHE.

D: So maybe this is silly, but one of my favorite Family Home Evening activities from when I was a kid was when me and my folks **planned fire escape routes** in our house...and then did a **drill!** Emergency preparedness, a prayer, a song, a treat—what more could you want in an FHE? Make sure your roommates know where to meet up after you've escaped your imaginary fire!

B: **Have PRESSURIZED, INSPECTED, TESTED, and LOADED fire extinguishers handy** and make sure people in your house know **where they are** and **how to use them!** Do NOT test on small furry animals! (Pixel: *Yeah!! MeOWCH!! It sticks to fur!*)

Catastrophe Couture.

Imagine this: Your phone rings at 3AM in the morning. It's your insomniac-but-in-the-know cousin Carl, who heard on the news AND Twitter that your neighborhood is gonna be wiped off the map and you need to leave NOW.

Would you feel safe fleeing in your bare feet and your jammies?

If not, think about keeping sturdy shoes and durable clothing nearby (B: no further than 10 feet away, or maybe in a closet, ready to go) in case you ever have to hoof it like Lot.

That's it for this week!



Mrow! There are more good tips out there than I have stripes! Here's a couple longer articles I read in-between my nap practice sessions:

In this one, an average Joe talks about **how to plan this emergency stuff when your life is superbusy.**

[A Little Bit of Planning, A Lot of Success](#)

And this one talks about **learnin' from stuff like your family history to prepare for future shenanigans.**

[Sturdy Shoes and a Waterproof Tent.](#)

Maybe if looked into my tiger heritage, I could overcome my fear of water to how to fish! Sweet!