

AMERICAN SURVIVOR

Survival Information For The Prepared Citizen

January/February 2011

\$2.50 PER ISSUE

Published by: Live Free, USA , www.americansurvivor.org, e-mail: lfinow@aol.com, or write: Live Free, P.O. Box 3295, Munster, IN 46321



IN THIS ISSUE: The Survival Camp, Customizing the AR-7 Rifle, Midwest Earthquakes, Can You Handle The Truth?

The Survival Camp

Live Free, USA has field- tested all levels of survival camping including the construction of a full base camp under simulated hostile conditions. The photos in this article are from those exercises.

In past issues we have looked at survival packs, home survival plans, evacuations, urban survival and a wide variety of survival emergency scenarios. Under most emergency situations it is best to remain in the shelter provided by your home and use the supplies and equipment there. Once you have elected to take to the road, you are placing yourself and your family at the mercy of the environment and a variety of hazards with the limited supplies you can carry. Unless you have a well-established route to a well established and supplies retreat, you should regard taking a hike as the last resort. There are several scenarios that would justify or even necessitate evacuation and relocation under emergency conditions. Your home could be in immanent danger of destruction from floods, fires or looters. You may run out of supplies. Roving gangs or spreading epidemics could make the area unsafe. Some kind of "police state" action could make moving to the hills preferable to remaining in towns.

So lets look at the various types of camps or bivouacs one might establish.

There are three, basic kinds of camps one may establish or be involved in establishing. There is the "hasty camp" that you put up nightly while on the move or when weather forces you to halt. There is the "Survival Camp" that an individual or family establishes where they intend to stay for a while to shelter, rest, gather food and perhaps meet others. And there is the full-blown "Base-Camp" where a group of families or an organization sets up a long-term base to provide all live sustaining supplies and services for an indefinites time. Each of these camps requires shelter, water, food, warmth, sanitation, and security. In many cases camouflage and concealment will be beneficial to survival.

The Hasty Camp

The hasty camp can take many forms, depending on the weather, location and outside hazards. Since such camps are inevitably established in close proximity to routes where others desperate people may be moving, concealment and security must take a high priority. The immediate availability of water is not

necessary since you should have been gathering water on the march and you will be doing so the next day. So you should select an area well away from your trail or any other trails or roads. If there is any possibility of a hostile population you should have a dark cold camp with no fire and no candles or lanterns. Use small mini-lights or red-lens flashlights if you must, but try to have everything set up before dark. If you must have a fire to cook or boil water do so before dark and minimize smoke. You should locate a site well before dark and scout the surrounding area to be sure that you are truly in a safe spot. There could be a road, or occupied camp just over the hill. Of course you should select a thicket or natural concealed spot. Abandoned buildings or natural shelters can be used only if they are well off main roads. Remember, if you think it's a good place to go, so will others.

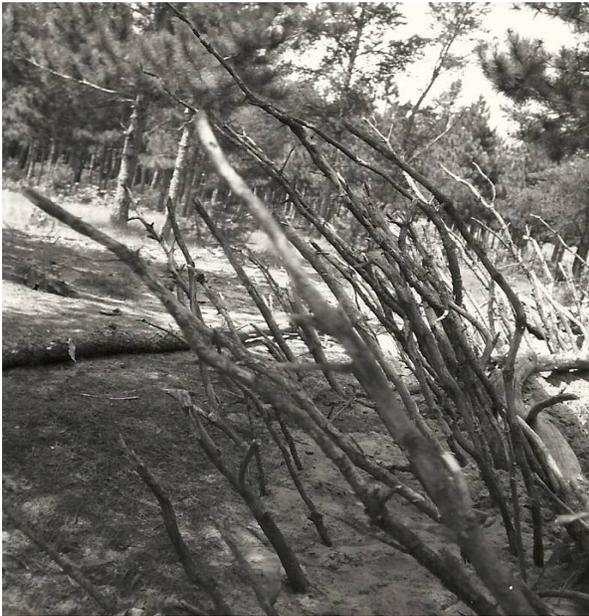
Regardless of how well selected your camp is you must put security first. After all if it were safe out here you would be home in bed. Unfortunately there is not much time to "fortify" a hasty camp. Be sure you establish your escape routes before dark. Use brittle twigs and branches to put up natural looking barriers that will make approaches difficult and noisy.



A hasty abates of deadfall and branches can slow down intruders and make approaches noisy. See below left

Have your weapon(s) immediately at hand. Have all of your supplies not used for shelter, packed to go. If you have to run you will know where you are going, have your weapon and most of your supplies with you. In fact you should never have any survival supplies you are not immediacy using out of your pack. Of course if you are not alone, take turns on watch through the night. Minimize your impact on the camp area and cover up or carry out and waste or trash. Signs of a well-supplied camp could make other want to follow your trail. In a hasty camp you have your water and food packed in. You may be lucky enough to find some edible plants, catch a fish or small game, but that's not the priority. The hasty camp is about shelter, warmth, security and preparing food that you have. While you still need to burry human waste sanitation is not a serious problem in a short stay.

Note: The above assumes that "hostile conditions" exist. Under such conditions any campfire and smoke can be seen for miles and will attract serious trouble. Of course if "rescue" is needed and/or concealment is not necessary a campfire may be desirable. Extreme cold may justify the risk of a small fire if it is in a pit or well surrounded by logs. Remember that the fire will light up overhead trees and branches like a sign advertising your location.



With more time sharpened branches can prevent infiltration or rushing attacks on your camp

The Survival Camp

The Survival Camp is a much more complicated proposition than the Hasty Camp. While it starts out based on what you have brought with you, its success depends on a good location, available water, food sources, building supplies, and many other considerations. Unless there are preposition caches of food, tools and other supplies, it will require hunting, foraging, improvising and building skills. You need to spend more time on selection of a site. You may need to try several “hasty camps” before you are sure that a location is safe for this more permanent campsite. In this case you need to have access to water and be able to hunt, trap, fish and forage for food in the area. You may also need to “forage” in nearby towns and abandoned buildings, etc. for materials such as wire, plastic, cloth, rope, containers, metal and other materials. Depending on the situation you may or may not want to interact with other survivors or occupants in the area.

Remember that these folks may be in desperate situations and may not welcome your foraging and hunting in the same area. Of course there may also be openly hostile and criminal groups roaming about that you want to avoid. Your camp should be located well back from any trails, roads or occupied areas. In this case you probably will be needing to have fires, and some noise and odors will be unavoidable. But keep fires and smoke to a minimum and do not wear trails to and from your camp. Worn trails, trash, signs of foraging will all attract attention. These are particularly troublesome in fall and winter when there is less foliage and tracks in the snow are very hard to conceal. The gathering of firewood and building materials will soon clear the area of deadwood and branches, giving more evidence of your camp. After a few weeks your impact on the area will be hard to conceal. Two solutions to these hazards are:

- / Move your camp every few weeks. Doing this gives you fresh foraging and hunting territory while reducing your risk of being raided by hostile groups. You should search out and designate your next campsite as soon as you settle in the current one. You may even want to cache some supplies there and make it your emergency evacuation assembly point.
- / If constant moving of the camp is impractical you can minimize your foraging, hunting and other activities within a few miles of the camp and go out on foraging and hunting expeditions to remote areas well away from your camp

Another feature of the survival camp is that it justifies the time and effort to establish basic fortification. You should be able to setup and man a lookout post

that will spot intruders well before they can detect the camp. You can use deadwood, branches, ditches and other material to slowdown any form of intrusion long enough to be identified, resisted or for you to evacuate. You should consider having trenches or other bullet resistant “cover” available for all camp members. Finally, you must have a plan for evacuation and a plan for camp defense established and practiced.



Larger camp attract more skills like field dentistry and medical support

Sanitation is another issue that becomes critical in a long-term camp. Human waste, cooking waste, the offal from cleaning fish and game will attract unwanted insects, animals and disease that will soon render the camp untenable. These wastes must be buried well away from the occupied camp and water supplies. Clear procedures must be in place as soon as camp is established. Since waste disposal and personal hygiene issues will probably be addressed outside of the camps main defensive perimeter it will be necessary to have an armed guard accompany anyone visiting these facilities. It is a standard procedure for a hostile intruder to take down a person who is outside the

camp and then infiltrate in there clothing as if returning.



A base camp will require a dedicated security force and 24-hour guarding schedules

The Base Camp

This is a large multi- family camp like those used by refugees, survivors and resistance groups in recent wars. Some of these were occupied by several hundred people and included, shops, hospitals, farms and schools. These camps operated in the same forests for several years. While these worked well in Europe in World War Two, they may be impractical if (1) there is a hostile force in existence and (2) the current level of technology (e.g. infrared, spy drones, helicopters, etc.) is still functional. Such a camp would leave too big of a “foot print” and have too much impact to be secure for long. So to consider this kind of a “Base Camp” we have to assume that there is a reasonably friendly environment and/or a non-functional or over stretched technology. In other words a friendly or at-least neutral population and a friendly or non-functional state. Under these circumstances a base camp could offer significant long-term survival and recovery hope fare better than smaller

camps. The capacity to provide specialized skills and group efforts in such areas as food procurement, medical aide, security, and equipment repair would attract more and more survivors from surrounding areas.



Trenches and shelters can link various parts of the camp and provide shelter and escape routes for emergencies

There are a number of challenges and hazards to the existence of a large base camp. A leadership structure, organization and rules must be established. Theft, and other transgressions must be dealt with. Who can come in and who cannot come in may be an issue. There is a real danger of would-be warlords and demigods taking control. The local population may become hostile to the camps occupation of land and use of resources. Obviously the goal of the camp is to preserve freedom, security and safety for its occupants, but joining the camp will inevitably require voluntary agreement to

abide by some rules and contribute work and skills as needed.



Established camp sites allow time to build more permanent shelters. Note the support for a radio antenna in the background

Urban Survival Camps

A “camp” could be occupied structures in a suburban or urban area. Most of the same rules, techniques and cautions would apply. If you are located deep in an urban area you might have to hasty camp in town for several days until you reached more open country. In the end you might even have to set up a semi-permanent camp in a building or wooded area in town. One part of town may be untenable, but another area may be defensible and relatively safe. For example: industrial areas could offer shelter and lots of usable supplies and are usually unoccupied after a disaster.

Conclusion

The evolution from hasty camps, to survival camps to base camps depends on the length of time that “emergency” conditions exist and the extent of the “disaster zone”. The average “survival pack” will support survival on-foot for from three to six days. A few more of the weather is mild and some additional food can be had. So an emergency that last less than one week or where safety and supplies can be reached in less than 100-miles would consist of a series of hasty camps. When there is no sign of relief or rescue within a few days or a few dozen miles one must start planning for a more established survival camp. Base camps would develop in a number of ways. They might evolve as more and more survivors get together and pool resources in an area. This certainly would start to happen within a few months if conditions did not improve. Base camps might be preplanned by organizations that established supply caches, plans and communications networks around a predestinated site. Base camps could also be established by surviving local, and county governments to help survivors while maintaining sanitation and safety for the area. Of course anything established to confine survivors and confiscate supplies is a “concentration camp” regardless of what they call it. While we can hope that Americans are never driven to become desperate refugees wandering the roads and trails to escape a destroyed or degenerating civilization, it has happened over-and-over again throughout the rest of the world and it is not as far fetched as it was just a few years ago. Once you have accepted the need to have a “survival pack” you must then accept the need to consider the possibility of using it in an evacuation and to camp until civilization is reached or recovers.

Customizing The AR-7 Survival Rifle

By Jim Jones

Way back in the early 1960s I bought one of the original ArmaLite™ manufactured AR-7 Explorer civilian versions of the “survival rifle” designed for the US Air Force to be used by downed pilots, mainly for shooting small game for survival food. Weighing only 2.25 pounds and a mere 16.5 inches long disassembled it was ideal for aircraft survival kits. All of the parts (barrel, receiver, magazine) stash in the hollow plastic stock that floats. The 22-caliber long-rifle ammunition is small and light enough to permit carrying 50 to 100 rounds. The current model is manufactured by Henry Repeating Arms right here in the USA. The stock is a nice flat black instead of the marbled tan of my ArmaLite™ model. They also have managed to add a second 8-round magazine in the floating stock. The current Henry version sold as “U.S. Survival AR-7” sells for about \$275.00.



AR-7 with collapsible stock attached and original floating stock above. Note the longer 20-round magazine provides a forgrip.

Of course anyone in a “survival” situation would prefer to have some variety of larger caliber, high capacity military rifle with lots of ammunition, but that takes up weight and space that you may need for food, water and other essential supplies. Remember, there is no Quartermaster to send resupply trucks for you. So the criterion for selection of a “survival rifle” starts with weight, size and weight of ammunition. Of course durability and reliability are also important. My AR-7 has proven extremely durable and reliable under all weather conditions and storage conditions over 35+ year. My only problem has been that big clunky plastic stock taking up room in my pack. Depending on the situation, I might select a number of rifles and sidearm’s to take in an emergency, but if all I can grab is my pack I want at least one firearm and ammunition to be *in* the pack. The AR-7 and its 22-LR ammunition are ideal, but I really need the room in my pack that the floating stock occupies. I am not going down in a plane so I am unlikely to need a floating gun. Fortunately there are folding metal stocks and other accessories available to replace the original parts.



AR-7 with barrel removed and stock collapsed is only 15-inches long and takes up very little room in the pack..

I was able to order a collapsible stock with a pistol grip for \$49.95 and a couple of 20-round magazines for \$29.95 each. This gave me a really compact rifle that takes up very little room in my survival pack. In my view Henry should offer this rifle with a folding stock. I am still debating whether to invest in an available scope and scope mount. They also offer 16 and 32 round magazines and other accessories. They also offer kits that include rails and vented barrel covers to “sportier” the gun, but I see no value in this added weight just for appearance. Go to www.ar7.imoutdoorshostring.com or AR-7 Customizes Accessories. LLC, 998 North Colony Rd., Meriden, CT 06450.



Fully assembled and extended AR-7 Survival Rifle.

Hollywood loves the AR-7. It was used by James Bond in From Russia With Love and continues to pop up in more recent spy movies.

Midwest Earthquakes Just A Matter Of Time

While most people think that serious earthquakes are confined to the west-coast the fact is that the central Mississippi valley is highly likely to experience a 7 to 8 magnitude earthquake in the next few decades or next week. Back in 1811 and 1812 earthquakes of 7.7 to 8.0 struck the region, but there were few towns and the area was very thinly populated so loss of life and property was not significant. However it did change the course of the Mississippi River. The primary hazard is from the New Madrid Fault lying across this zone. Because of the nature of the underlying rock in this area the waves would travel much further than similar quakes do in the west coast. The shockwaves would cover one million square miles of heavily populated territory. Major cities such as Nashville, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Memphis, Louisville, and Little Rock would be devastated. Cities as far away as Chicago, Indianapolis and Kansas City would suffer significant damages. Damage to key bridges, power stations, nuclear power plants, chemical plants, dams and highways would virtually shut-down to whole center of the United States crippling the economy for years and years. The loss of life would be in the many millions. The US might well never recover from such a catastrophic event, yet many geologists think that the New Madrid fault is overdue for a shift. Unlike the west coast most of the building and bridges in this area are not "earthquake resistant" and even a less severe quake could do serious damage. With no power, water, fire or police services cities would become war zones in hours. Only armed and well-prepared citizens would have chance to holdout or get out.

On a survival level we can only recommend that readers in these areas avoid living in urban areas and maintain survival supplies well away from structures that might collapse or catch fire. Carry a basic survival kit with you. If you survive the initial earthquake you will have a chance



Can You Handle The Truth!!

The frequency and severity of these disasters are the result of the ever growing black hole that humanity is being drawn into

At one end of the survival scenario scale we have the common emergencies and natural disasters that happen every-year to some people, somewhere. In the middle of the scale are cataclysmic events that would significantly reduce the population and change the world. These include world wide nuclear wars, major climate changes, and global epidemics. At the extreme end of the scale are the kinds of disasters that would virtually wipeout humanity and put civilization back into the Stone Age. There are solar eruptions, giant meteor hits, and other cosmic events that are unpredictable, and inevitable at some time.

One event that is near this end of the scale is not only predictable, it has already started to have its effects and will inevitably result in wars, famine,

pandemics, socio-economic collars and an 80 to 90-percent reduction in the human population within the next one or two centuries. These are not the predictions of some “survival nut” trying to sell you on stocking up on freeze dried food. These are scientifically researched conclusions of brilliant minds and “think tanks”. The inevitable result of growing population and limited planetary resources is well documented in the two books; Guns, Germs and Steel, and Collapse by Professor Jared Diamond. The prestigious Club of Rome predicted a doomsday tipping point that is already past in their report entitled The Limits of Growth”. Most recently Steven Hawking the reputed smartest man on earth stated “It will be difficult enough to avoid disaster on planet earth in the next hundred years, let alone the next thousand”. In fact he indicated that if we do not get off the planet our extermination is a mathematical certainty. If it were not for population reducing wars and plagues we would have reached this point centuries ago. There are no new continents to populate and exploit. While we talk much about preparedness for small and medium disasters we must recognize that the frequency and severity of these disasters are the result of the ever-growing “black hole” that humanity is being drawn into. If you think that solar panels and windmills can sustain this population, much less the future population at this level of comfort and civilization you are in serious denial. It may be that the increasing

interest in “survival” is a result of a subconscious awareness by the general population that something is terribly wrong. The tremors of collapse are evident in the increasing frequency and severity of man-made and natural disasters in general. Of the 20 costliest and deadliest disasters in the past 40-years occurred in just the past 10-years. And 13 of that 20 have been in the USA. It is estimated that 91% of the population live in a place of moderate-to-high risk for natural disaster or terrorist attack. Experts predict that the population of earth will be reduced to its pre World War Two level by the end of this century. If they are anywhere near right, that is going to be through a combination of wars, plagues, droughts, famines and disasters of biblical proportions.

We can be assured that the politicians will not talk about this. We can be sure that the wealthy and the powerful will take care of the wealthy and the powerful. Even if we elect the most responsible freedom-loving leaders available, they cannot alter the natural forces and mathematical realities that are at work. The rest of us will need to think of our children and grandchildren. We must assure that we can turn to each other instead of turning on each other. As the disaster unfolds and the challenging days come, they must be ready and able to survive and to hold on to human values, and freedoms. That should be the true mission of every responsible citizen and patriot.

Live Free, USA Is Tax Deductible!

Live Free, USA is incorporated in the state of Indiana and is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. We are qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, devices, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the code. Contributions of money, equipment, services, property and rental facilities are much needed to continue our mission. We will gladly provide the necessary documents to establish deductibility.

Staff

Executive Editor:

James C. Jones, survivorjj@aol.com

Managing Editor:

Open

Distribution Manager:

Tim Powers

Contributing Editor:

Christopher Nyerges,
Christopher_nyerges@yahoo.com

Disclaimer

Live Free, USA provides information as a service to its members and the public. The use of this information is solely at the discretion of the reader. Live Free, USA, its officers, representatives and members can accept no responsibility whatsoever for any loss, harm, damage, or injury resulting from the use or misuse of information provided. Opinions expressed in this publication may not necessarily be those of Live Free, USA, or of its officers, representatives or members.

Advertisements

Classified advertisements are 25 cents per word, 20 words minimum. Run the same ad two times and get the third ad free. All ad text must be submitted as MS-Word or compatible files. Contact Live Free regarding display ads or enclosures with our mailings

Contributed Material

Contributed articles are welcome and needed. We do not pay for material but we are tax-deductible. All articles must be in MS-Word or compatible format via e-mail or on a diskette.

Inquiries

Address all general inquiries, subscriptions and advertisements to:

Live Free, P.O. Box 3295, Munster, IN 46321, USA or lifnow@aol.com

Copyright 2011 by Live Free, USA. Munster, IN, All rights reserved

THE SOVEREIGN

"Censored! Read the Newspaper they don't want you to know about!
"The Sovereign" is a 32-page monthly tabloid newspaper featuring incendiary content about life during wartime in the Age Of Obama.
Send \$3.00 for a sample issue to: **"The Sovereign", PO Box 418
New York, NY 10116"**

**LIVE FREE, USA
P.O. BOX 3295
MUNSTER, IN 46321
U. S. A.**



We're on the Web at: www.americansurvivor.org