

Survival tips – urban vs rural situations

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Maneuvering through the challenges of the past few years has meant an exploration of issues, ideas, and technologies that would likely not have occurred otherwise. It seems that challenges are good motivators.

This series of e-resources consists of a gathering of ‘tips & tricks’ learned along the way. There will be revisions and additions to this series as new information and challenges present themselves.

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Included in the ‘Tips & Tricks’ series ...

- Nebulized hydrogen peroxide
- Emergency and disaster-proofing gear: Canadian sources
- Owning a gun in Canada
- Chlorine Dioxide Solution (CDS)
- Survival tips – urban v rural situations

Survival tips – urban vs rural situations

Urban versus rural survival

If real trouble starts where you live, survival strategies are going to largely depend on your location – in a downtown urban core, suburb, small rural town, farm, or isolated wilderness homestead. Or somewhere in between.

There is no one simple and perfect plan covering all possible situations:

- natural disasters: floods, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes
- man-made disasters: wars, terrorism, financial collapse, an Internet or banking shutdown
- a truly deadly pandemic
- a local versus widespread disruption
- a complete surprise, or with plenty of advance warning
- a short duration (several days) or longer (a week, or months)

Some consider a suburban location to be an ideal compromise offering the advantages of both urban and rural situations. However, suburbia could also bring the disadvantages of both.

There will also likely be confusion and an unpredictable movement of people. In prolonged situations, city dwellers could eventually be forced to leave home seeking food and greater safety. Likewise, rural dwellers could be forced into cities for information, medical attention, or critical services.

The challenge is figuring out the advantages & disadvantages of your present situation. This takes careful planning, resources, and time. People who have been through such situations say even the best laid plans can go astray ‘when the s**t hits the fan’.

As the sayings go, ‘72 hours to animal’ or ‘9 meals to animal’. That’s about all the time it takes for your ‘friendly’ neighbours to become fearful and desperate.

A few thoughts ...

Survival tips – urban vs rural situations

Urban situations

Urban Advantages

- An inexperienced and unprepared ‘prepper’ will do better in a city where services and supplies will be easier to get, and where a ready-made shelter already exists (ie your home)
- Short-term natural disasters could be sheltered ‘in place’, not needing to risk venturing outside for essentials
- Closer proximity to amenities, sources of information, workplaces, stores and food distribution, mass transportation, services, trusted friends & family
- Availability of clean drinking water, electricity, and familiar shelter for hiding inside for several days
- Possible sharing of supplies, food, equipment, and living space
- Companionship and community support for security and protection against looting
- Small urban gardens (backyard patios, apartment verandas) could be repurposed for growing food and medicinal herbs

Urban Disadvantages

- Unprepared neighbours living in darkness, cold, and hunger, will be desperate after days of deprivation; there will be fewer resources available for all
- Longer-term situations will mean having to leave shelter for essentials; typical households have only about 2 days of essentials on-hand
- Larger populations will create competition for limited resources and the potential for lawlessness; possible exposure to violent looters in the absence of normal law enforcement; you could suddenly have lots of enemies to fend off
- Smells of food preparation, the noise of power generators, the light of candles could make your survival situation the target of unwelcome attention
- Municipal electricity and drinking water lines could be cut; an electrical outage would threaten frozen goods; a reliable method of generating electricity and gathering and storing water would be needed
- Produce from small micro-gardens would be consumed quickly

Survival tips – urban vs rural situations

- Shelf-stable canned or dry goods consumable without heating or cooking would be essential; foraging for wild edibles could be difficult
- Garbage would soon accumulate, creating a sanitation and disease problem

Rural / wilderness situations

Rural Advantages

- Avoids urban chaos and the potential violence from desperate neighbours and looting gangs
- Freedom to do things due to privacy and distance from other people; easier to remain unseen and undiscovered
- Shelter can be pre-built and pre-supplied with conveniences like electrical power, hot water, fireplaces and stoves, toilet facilities, food supplies and equipment
- A closer connection to tillable and forested land, and sources of water, means a potential for growing food or wild foraging, hunting, fishing, or camping; also, access to wood for building, fireplaces, and cooking

Rural Disadvantages

- A rural or wilderness location is not an option for most people (most live in urban areas)
- Fleeing urban chaos is no guarantee of safety; once urban resources are exhausted, urban scavengers would start looking for essentials elsewhere
- A 'bug out' rural or wilderness locale may be impossible to reach (at least a 20-minute drive from any populated area); safe highway travel with people and supplies could be difficult; vehicle fuel could be limited
- More property and supplies means having more to protect
- Less access to information, news, and good communication sources
- No guarantee that rural neighbours will be friendly, cooperative, or willing to share resources and knowledge
- Wilderness or rural skills take years to acquire; 'mastery' of many different skills would be necessary
- Nothing will be within easy walking or travelling distance; essentials would be far away; you'll be on your own

Survival tips – urban vs rural situations

- Access to prompt medical care, repairs to complex equipment, could be difficult
- Clean water availability and water purification would be a prime concern as natural streams and water sources could carry pollutants as well as bacteria or other pathogens

General resources

[Rural Versus Urban Prepping: How to Prepare](#). Linda Loosli. Food Storage Moms. June 28, 2020.

[Ultimate Survival Guide for Emergency Preparedness in Canada](#). Taylor. Coast2Coast First Aid & Aquatics. Octobe 18, 2023.

[How to prepare a go bag, emergency kit or evacuation plan](#). CBC News. June 5, 2023.

[Urban Survival vs. Rural Survival: A WARNING from Selco About Your Plans](#). The Organic Prepper. December 1, 2020.

[Urban Survival Kit: 22 Critical Tools to Have](#). Dan F Sullivan. Survival Sullivan. Updated December 20, 2021.

[7 Greatest Dangers for Preppers in the City](#). Alan Urban.

[The Difference Between Urban and Rural Prepping](#). Dale. Survivalist Prepper.

[Rural VS Urban Survival](#). Selco. SHTF School. 2014.

Amazon Canada – [disaster survival handbooks](#)

[Get an Emergency Kit](#). Canadian Red Cross.

[Prepper Library](#). Survival PDFs, Manuals, and Downloads. TruePrepper.

Survival tips – urban vs rural situations

Videos

[The Difference Between Urban, Suburban, and Rural Prepping.](#) Survivalist Prepper. YouTube. June 2023.

[Urban vs Rural Survival During SHTF.](#) Survival Dispatch. YouTube. November 2023.

[Urban and City Preppers versus Rural Preppers, Who Will Survive SHTF.](#) Survival Living. YouTube. February 2023.

[Wilderness vs Urban Survival Kits.](#) Nature Reliance. YouTube. 2015.

[Urban Preppers VS Rural Preppers.](#) Canadian Prepper. YouTube. May 2015.

[Canadian Prepper.](#) YouTube channel.

Links

[Prepper Website](#)

[SHTF School](#) / Urban Survival and Preparedness

[Survival Frog](#)

[Survival Life](#)

[Survivalist Prepper](#)

[TruePrepper](#)

[Urban Survival Site](#)