

Bible -
based



**EMERGENCY
PREPARATION**

“Behold, I have told you in advance”
Jesus of Nazareth (Matthew 24:25)

Deep Survival Preparing Mentally To Endure during Emergencies

A Study for Church Leaders
www.BibleEmergencyPreparation.org

Deep Survival

A Study on Mental Preparation

Man does not know his time: like fish caught in a treacherous net... so the sons of men are ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them (Ecclesiastes 9:12).

REFLECTION

An emergency runs a usual course, regardless of how serious it may be, through six different stages:

1. The WARNING Stage

An *emergency-in-the-making* is usually preceded by *warning signs*:
The *Titanic* had been warned of icebergs in their area.

2. The CRISIS Stage

This is when the *emergency* is actually *occurring*:
From the time the *Titanic* hit the iceberg until it sank beneath the waves the crisis was occurring.

3. The DISASTER Stage

The *outcome* of the emergency occurs, or is avoided (*DISASTER-AVERTED*), here:
From the time the *Titanic* sank until the arrival of the rescue ships, such as the *Carpathia* was the disaster; this is the period when most of the *Titanic*'s passengers died by being exposed to the frigid waters of the North Atlantic. Note that those in the lifeboats avoided that outcome.

4. The CLEAN-UP Stage

This is the *immediate aftermath*:
This began with the saving of the *Titanic* survivors by the rescue ships, continued during their safe return to first New York harbor and then ultimately to their homelands, and also included the recovery of the *Titanic*'s dead who were found floating (for weeks afterward) and their return for burial.

5. The RESOLUTION Stage

This is the *long-term aftermath*:
This is also called the Recovery Stage. It often overlaps with the later phases of the Clean-Up Stage. For the *Titanic* disaster this began with the newspaper stories, already searching for, or beginning to assign, blame, and continued through the inquiries hearings, which were doing the same thing. This phase ended with the release of the official verdict and the payment of the last insurance claim. (With the continued interest in the *Titanic*'s sinking, there are those who would argue the Resolution Phase is still on-going.) Note that this stage includes the Post-Emergency Analysis where the causes (and blame) are recognized.

6. The NEXT EMERGENCY PREPARATION Stage

This is the *useful aftermath*:
The Post-Emergency Analysis is now used to identify future warning signs, and thus avoid similar, yet-to-come emergencies, or to confirm new techniques learned from the past emergency. In the case of the *Titanic*, it was agreed that slower speeds were better for trans-Atlantic ships during iceberg season, and that the Marconi wireless (radio) proved excellent for ship-to-ship communications during emergencies.

ANALYSIS

Even for those who prepare for future emergency _ and see the warning signs of that emergency's coming _ misfortune can still strike. Here are the steps to resolving it:

1. IDENTIFY THE EMERGENCY

_ Things have changed: *What is the new reality?*

People on the *Titanic* lived in the “old reality” if they still saw the ship as a “luxury passenger liner” taking them to New York; the “new reality” was that it was a “sinking ship” in the middle of the deadly North Atlantic.

_ Identify the Pivotal Crisis: *What is the main thing that is wrong? Where is it? Who is affected?*

For the *Titanic* this was that the ship had hit an iceberg slicing through its hull, and it was taking on water.

Everybody on board was effected: Those living in the “old reality,” however, were probably worried about other things, such as, with the ship dead in the water, not getting to New York on time.

2. STABILIZE THE EMERGENCY

_ Identify the level of danger: *What is the extent of the Crisis?*

The *Titanic* was taking on water—at an alarming rate.

_ Act on that information: *What would be useful for me to do **right now**?*

For the *Titanic*'s officers and crew, closing water-tight doors would be useful (it would at least slow the sinking); for the passengers, *getting to* a lifeboat would be useful.

_ Keep the Crisis from spreading (“isolate” it): *Have I intervened (done) enough?*

The crew of the *Titanic* started pumps to drain the water (to “isolate” the water to only those sections already flooded); they started to *seriously* load lifeboats. For passengers, *getting into* a lifeboat and being set free from the sinking ship now removed (isolated) them from the most immediate danger.

_ Don't get pulled into diversionary paths, i.e. sidetracked: *What is **most useful now**?*

For the *Titanic*'s crew, to continue serving meals, making beds, disposing of trash, etc., was valueless; all efforts should be at “life-saving.” For the passengers, turning back to get that I-can't-live-without-it trinket would prove deadly.

3. MANAGE THE EMERGENCY

_ Always remember: *A Crisis is a Battle!* Treat it accordingly

The *Titanic* crew *fought* to save the ship.

_ Seize control *swiftly*, especially to isolate (keep from spreading) the Crisis

The *Titanic*'s water-tight doors were shut almost immediately after hitting the iceberg

_ Calculate the most direct route to resolving the Crisis

Closing water-tight doors and starting draining pumps would have usually saved the *Titanic*.

_ Always work toward resolving the Crisis, i.e. “returning to normal,” even if you have to change your initial plans (but don't get sidetracked on less important issues)

The *Titanic* crew made a valiant attempt at “saving the ship”; when that became impossible and they saw disaster was inevitable, they valiantly attempted to save as many lives as possible (Disaster-Averted); the living would have a “normalcy”—life—that the dead would not have.

APPLICATION: THE SURVIVOR MENTALITY

There are two aspects to the Survivor Mentality:

- (1) PREPARATION, actions taken to prevent, or lessen the impact of, an emergency
- (2) CRISIS RESPONSE, actions taken to limit the outcome(s) of an emergency

PREPARATION

What is the worst thing that could happen?

The best indicator of future events is past events.

One of the by-products of crisis is chaos.

Crisis management in its most basic form: Be Prepared!

In the end, the main enemy, the main barrier to be overcome is denial. Far too many people mouth the cliché, "It can't happen to us; therefore we don't need to spend the time, effort, and money to prepare for crisis." They are wrong, dead wrong!

Indeed, it has been found that just thinking about the unthinkable prior to its occurrence makes one much more able to think on one's feet and hence to recover from a crisis once it has occurred. The fact that one has anticipated the unthinkable means that one is not paralyzed when it occurs.

In effect, a good crisis scenario is a plan for how the unthinkable can and will occur.

An effective crisis forecast almost always changes behavior.

CRISIS RESPONSE

You ignore warning signs at your own peril.