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## Introduction

For too long, the term "survivalist" has called to mind paranoid separatists or white supremacists who give up the conveniences of modern society, drop out of the government's databases and live in one-room backwoods cabins like the Unabomber.

Well, Captain Dave and the good folks at the **Survival Center** know survivalists are much more likely to be Floridians buying hurricane shutters a few months before the next hurricane season, Californians preparing a three-day cache of food and water in case the next big one rocks their town or a Minnesota resident who keeps a few blankets, a pair of old boots, warm socks and a few candy bars in the car during winter. This isn't paranoia, it's just good planning. Like carrying a spare tire, even if you never need it.



But there are plenty of online resources for people who just want to prepare a three-day kit. Captain Dave's Survival Guide is designed to take you to the next level. Because in a true emergency, three days may not be long enough. We want you to be mentally, physically and financially prepared for any emergency on *any* scale.

## Some Common Terms

- We define *survival* as emerging from a natural or manmade disaster in a better position than the average person. In other words, you get to keep on keeping on, while others may not.
- *Preparedness* means making preparations before disaster strikes to improve your chances of survival. Surely you remember the old saw about closing the barn door...
- *Survivalists* have a self-reliant bent and choose to prepare on their own or in a small group rather than rely on the government to help them survive.

So, how can you prepare to survive? What can you do to prepare, to become a "survivalist?" The Survival Center has developed this eight step program to help you get started. While designed as a guide for the new survivalist, it has plenty of information for the hard-core preparedness expert as well.

**A warning:** Captain Dave's Survival Guide contains some lengthy chapters (although we've kept graphics to a minimum to speed loading and designed each page so the text loads first). You may wish to save each chapter or print it out for reading at your leisure. And remember, in many emergencies, your computer will be inaccessible, so a hard copy of any chapters you find especially helpful isn't a bad thing to have on hand.

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