

Preparedness

Storehouse Net Training

04 March 2015

Introduction

Tonight we're going to talk about preparedness. For a reference, I would point you to chapter 9 in the ERC Handbook, but I am not going to follow that too closely. Because we don't yet have a good way to publish these trainings to the website, I would encourage you to take some notes, even if it is just a few scribbles in the margin of chapter 9.

Preparedness Defined

I like the definition of "prepared" on dictionary.com: *properly expectant, organized, or equipped*. The key word here is "properly". To me, this implies moderation, temperance, and avoiding extremes and excesses. To me, it implies being reasonably equipped and ready.

I believe there are two aspects to this. First, that we have the proper equipment and skills. But, second, that we do not inappropriately sacrifice, meaning we should not impose a hardship on ourselves or our families for the sake of preparedness. We are counseled to live within our means. We should do only that which we are able.

Now, having said that, getting to a state of "preparedness" can still be daunting and overwhelming. In an effort to overcome this intimidation, I would suggest that you prepare the same way you earn a college degree - one class at a time. Let's think about it. The first thing you do is decide on a major. That major is based on what you want to be when you grow up. You have some mental image in your mind about what life will be like in 20 years.

Then you select a university. The selection is based on a number of criteria: do they offer a major in your desired field? Can you afford the tuition? Maybe you also consider what schools your friends are attending or the city it is located in or any number of other factors.

The next thing you need to do is look at the curriculum. Maybe there are some required classes that you can test out of because you already have those skills, like a foreign language you learned on your mission. Maybe you took an advanced placement English class in high school that counts toward some college English credit. Either way, you'll end up with some kind of graduation plan—a list of classes you need to take each semester. Some classes are only offered in fall semesters and others are in high demand. Your graduation plan is basically a prioritized list of courses based on what you need to learn and when the classes are offered.

Then you register and begin taking classes. But you don't take every course in one semester. They are spread out over many semesters or even years. At times, your financial resources might get a little low and you have to stop attending classes for a period of time while you replenish the bank account.

Eventually, you'll graduate. There will be all sorts of celebration and cheering. However, in order to stay current in your field, you'll periodically have to recertify or get additional training.

At this point, some of you might be wondering what this all has to do with preparedness, let alone the ERC. Stick with me; don't check out yet.

When you are getting prepared, you need to have some image in your mind of what "prepared" looks like to you. You might need to research what the end goal NEEDS to look like for you and your family. Ask yourself these questions: (This is where the note taking comes in.)

If I were totally prepared, what would it look like?

. . What do I own?

. . Where is it stored?

. . What skills do I have?

. . What knowledge or skills does my family have?

. . etc.

Remember, this is the mental picture of the future, if you were total prepared.

After responding to those questions, in other words, after making a list of things you would own, storage, skills, etc., you could end with a list of 100 or even 200 things. Don't get discouraged! Assess what you currently have. What have you already achieved? As you go through your list of a hundred plus things, you may have only crossed off two things, but every one of you can cross off at least two things: You're on a radio and you have a license.

Again, there is no reason to get discouraged, because the next step is to prioritize your list. You are making a plan. What is the most important thing to do or acquire first? What's the second thing? What can wait until last? My 72 hour kits were destroyed in the flood last summer. Now that we have my home is back together, getting them replaced is high on my list! Maybe your first thing is a 2 meter mobile radio or emergency power or a GMRS license or CPR trained or a first aid kit in your car. Everyone's list will be different.

It helps me to assign an approximate purchase price to each item. That way I can plan around my budget. With things like skills, there might also be a duration assigned. You don't want to find yourself trying to learn six different skills at once. Knowing approximately how long it might take to acquire a new skill will help space them out appropriately.

Now that you have a plan, step back and assess the plan. Is it realistic? Does the schedule also fit the budget? If it feels doable, great. If not, make a few modifications. Remember, you can always make adjustments along the way.

Finally, it is time to execute your plan. Start at the first item on the list and do it, buy it, build it, learn it -- whatever it is, do it first. Check it off your list. Then move on to the second thing. And so on. It might take several years to check everything off your list. You might have to put the list on hold while you deal with other life events. You may even have to back-track and acquire certain items that have been used or depleted or spoiled along the way.

This is N7TMS, conducting the training on the ERC Storehouse 2 meter net.

Let's review.

1. Develop a mental picture of what "prepared" looks like.
2. Make a physical list of everything in your picture (items, storage, skills, etc.)
3. Cross off the list anything you already own and skills you already have.
4. Prioritize the list, with the most important or needful thing first.
5. Start at the top of the list and do the first thing.
6. Periodically review the list for necessary adjustments or renewal

What methods for getting prepared have worked for you? If you have a comment, please come now with your call sign.

A couple of final high-level suggestions:

Make preparations for your family and get them involved. In an emergency, your first obligation is always to your family.

And don't forget about spiritual preparation.

Refer to chapter 9 in the ERC Handbook for suggestions regarding what should be in your 72 hour kit. Maybe we'll have to talk more, another time, about go kits, home evacuation plans, bugout bags and other stuff like that.

Thank you for listening tonight. Hopefully some of this has been helpful.

Next week, we'll return the ERC Handbook trivia quiz that we started last month. Study up and we'll see you next week.

This concludes the training for this evening. This is N7TMS. Back to Net Control.