

December - "Preparing for the Future"

This month's theme is preparing for the future. As Benjamin Franklin once said: "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail," and this can be applicable to all aspects of life. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the phenomenon known as "prepping."

Week Four: Implementing and Practicing your Emergency Plan

Throughout this month, we have recognized December as the month to Prepare for the Future, by providing tips for beginner preppers, offering recommendations for gifting preparedness to others, and giving guidelines to make your own "bug out" plan. In this final week of December, we will focus on how to implement and practice your plan to ensure preparedness in any emergency situation.

Practicing your emergency plan is just as important as constructing it. Survival involves active participation and commitment from all individuals involved. Practicing allows you to identify the strengths and weaknesses within your plan and make changes when necessary. Ready to Go Survival published an [article](#) discussing how to create the perfect bug out plan, which of course includes continual practice. They recommend running through a drill in which you "sound the alarm" and require everyone involved gather at the designated meeting place. Practice loading everything into the bug-out vehicle and getting everyone's bug-out bags together. This ensures an efficient departure process during an emergency, and guarantees that all necessary resources are readily available.

Another recommendation is to travel all your planned routes to the bug-out location ahead of time. It is important to know what to look out for, where exits are located, and how to detour around routes if necessary. As stated last week, GPS technology and phone navigation systems can be unpredictable in the event of an emergency, which is why it is important to know the bug-out location and route well enough to not have to rely on technology. It is also important to practice a communication plan within your group. It is necessary to develop a common mode of communication among group members, as cell phones are not reliable in extreme circumstances. Some types of communication include walkie talkies, radios, notes and messages, or a system of signs and symbols. Ensuring that every group member is on the same page with communication is a critical aspect of your survival planning. Practice leaving and retrieving messages in predetermined locations, and ensure that everyone is able to use the communication system effectively. As disaster can happen at any time, it is important to practice the emergency plan from your home, school, work, and any other places that you spend a significant amount of time at. Consider keeping a bug out bag at your school or workplace in addition to your home and vehicle.

We feature a variety of products that can be used in the event of a disaster or emergency. Our bulletproof Tactical Organizer is a great product to store your emergency plan and any additional necessary documents and supplies. The NIJ IIIA Bulletproof organizer is waterproof and lightweight, with six separate storage compartments. Additionally, our [Defender Notebook Folio](#) is a great option for retaining emergency plans and documents, with ample pockets for storage and supplies. Both of these products will also act as a ballistic shield if it becomes necessary to protect yourself or your family. Our NIJ IIIA [Bulletproof Tactical Backpack](#) is an ideal option for those seeking a safe place for emergency supplies and tools, which will double as a defense tool for oneself and loved

ones. This backpack features multiple storage compartments, mesh pockets, and thickly padded straps, and is large enough to store essential supplies for the whole family.

Survival planning and preparation require a great deal of organization and practice to fine tune the details and ensure that the plan will run smoothly. However, when you do this well in advance of an emergency, you will be as prepared as possible to deal with whatever situation is to come. While this does not guarantee that there won't still be challenges, you will be much better prepared to deal with them if they arise.

Week 3: Making a bug out plan

In addition to making a bug-out-bag and stocking up on essential items over time, implementing an emergency or "bug out" plan is a key aspect of preparing. In previous weeks, we have discussed how to make a bug-out bag and how to prepare over time by stocking up on food, water, and other necessities. However, creating and practicing a solid emergency plan is equally essential for survival preparedness.

A good plan will consider multiple factors, such as the types of disasters that are likely to occur in one's area, one's personal strengths and weaknesses, specific destinations and escape routes, and special considerations for all individuals involved. Ready to Go Survival published an [article](#) with guidelines and tips for creating the ideal bug out emergency plan. The first thing to consider is who will be involved in your emergency plan, whether that includes household members, extended family, friends, or neighbors. It is important to consider specific needs in your group, and tailor the plan to individual requirements. Some factors to keep in mind include dietary restrictions, medical necessities, physical disabilities, and pets. The next part is figuring out where to go and how to get there. It is essential to know where you will go ahead of time. This could be the home of a family member or friend, a campground, or a property specifically purchased as a bug out location. The means of transportation is just as important as figuring out where to go. The vehicle must be reliable, safe, and have the ability to get to the destination as quickly as possible.

It is also important to consider the route you will take to the destination. In the event of a disaster, GPS tracking devices or cell phone maps may not be available. Instead, use a printed map and study it enough to know one main route and at least two backup routes. One tip would be to avoid main highways and roads, instead choosing back roads that are less traveled and less likely to be closed down or congested with traffic in an emergency situation. As discussed in previous weeks, it is important to bring an emergency car kit, a bug out bag for each individual involved, and enough food, water, and other essential resources to last at least three days. The article also discusses specifically when to enact the emergency plan and bug out—when your safety has been compromised, and/or resources have run out.

At BulletBlocker, we feature a variety of backpacks that will meet the needs for a basic supply kit. Our Guardian and Everyday backpacks both offer NIJ IIIA Bulletproof protection and have the storage space available to create an efficient emergency supply kit for the workplace, household, or vehicle. Additionally, our NIJ IIIA Bulletproof Survival Pack and Safety Kit is a great option for an emergency bug out bag. The backpack has both a well-stocked first aid kit and a basic survival supplies kit with a 5-year guaranteed shelf life. The first-aid kit contains enough supplies for 25 people, and includes bandages, gauze dressing pads, antiseptic towelettes, cold compresses, and gloves, among other essentials. The basic survival supply kit includes water, blankets, a flashlight, crank radio, a whistle, tools,

and tissues, among others. We also offer a variety of products that can be used in the event of a disaster.

Making an emergency bug out plan is an important aspect of preparing and survivalism. As we continue throughout Preparedness month, consider making an emergency plan this week by following the above guidelines.

Week Two - Giving the Gift of Preparedness

As the Christmas season approaches and gift shopping is in full swing, it can seem challenging to find the right gift for everyone on your list. One of the best gifts to give someone is something practical that shows you care about their safety. Giving the gift of preparedness is a great opportunity to help your family and friends start to make their safety a priority, or to give the experienced prepper in your life something unique. Now is a great time to help someone get started with the basics of preparing.

Homestead Launch put out a [list of holiday gifts](#) perfect for preppers earlier this month, with options ranging from \$20 to \$100, most of which are available on Amazon. One gift idea they recommended was a [water filter](#) with the ability to screw directly on a water bottle, hose, or hot water heater. It comes with an attachment that allows you to drink directly from a river or other source, and can filter up to 50 gallons. Not only is this gift inexpensive, it is also ideal for those who enjoy the outdoors and don't always have access to filtered water. Another gift idea they suggested was an [encrypted thumb drive](#), the "gift of gifts" for the modern survivalists. This is a good way to store and access all information in one place, including birth certificates, banking and social security information, insurance documents, and more. Keeping data on an encrypted drive ensures that your information will be safe and protected. For beginner preppers, many survivalist blogs and organizations suggest giving basic gifts with items such as high-powered flashlights, pocket blankets, and solar battery chargers.

At BulletBlocker, we offer a variety of products ideal for everyone on your shopping list—even those who are new to the idea of preparing. Our [backpacks](#) are a great option for individuals of all ages—making BulletBlocker a one-stop shop for everyone on your list. We offer a wide selection of versatile backpacks that will fit any style. Our Everyday Backpack provides a discrete layer of anti-ballistic protection that is metal detector and tourist friendly. This is a great option for students, commuters, or frequent travelers, as it is lightweight and adjustable, with adequate room for storage. My Child's Pack is our smallest bag designed for young children who need a backpack that is light enough to be worn safely. Designed with the same lightweight, semi-flexible NIJ IIIA ballistic panel used in all our products, this backpack is guaranteed to keep your child safe at school and on-the-go. We offer many other backpacks and backpack panel inserts that are sure to please everyone on your list. In addition, our [clothing](#) products are a great gift option for men and women, with a range of styles and pieces sure to fit everyone's taste.

As we continue through December focusing on preparing for the future, think about giving the gift of preparedness this holiday season. This is one of the best gifts you can give, as it shows your loved ones that their safety is a priority.

Week One

There are many misconceptions around prepping, while it is simply the act of taking steps to prepare for the future. In the past few decades, there have been many events and disasters that have caused a spike in prepping across the nation. These include the 9/11 attacks,

Hurricane Katrina, the 2007 Recession, and the rising threat of violence and terrorism, among others. Unfortunately, disaster can strike anywhere, at any time. Though this is a harsh reality to face, it is necessary to take adequate steps to prepare for one of these events. Depending on the nature of the disaster, necessary resources and care may not be readily available, and medical services and personnel may be unpredictable. This can devastate individuals and communities alike, leaving thousands without adequate food, water, medicine, electricity, and other basic necessities. Keeping food, supplies, and extra resources on hand is the best way to ensure preparedness for any type of disaster.

Many people put off preparing with the intent to do it "later," due to finances, lack of time, or other priorities. But in reality, preparing is not as daunting, expensive, or time-consuming as it may seem. Many people think that disaster won't occur within their community, but that is a high risk to take when one's safety is at stake. Technically, most people are already preppers; we all prepare for life to varying degrees. Buying insurance, stocking your cabinets and fridge with food, and putting money into a savings account are all forms of preparing.

Taking a few small steps each month can add up over time and have long-term benefits. Starting the prepping process can be as simple as buying extra food and water during your next trip to the grocery store. When prepping, it is recommended to keep a 2-week supply of food and water on hand for all individuals in a household. Start off this month by stocking up on enough water for all family members. If you don't own one already, consider buying a can opener and enough non-perishable foods to last two weeks for all household members. Some options include: canned chicken and beef, canned beans or chili, mac and cheese, and peanut butter. These options are fairly inexpensive, and are high in fat and calories. Each month, stock up little by little during each trip to the store. With each month, add more essential items, such as flashlights and batteries, a first-aid kit, blankets, and lighters. Allocating a portion of money each month to preparing is worth the peace of mind it will bring. Our NJ IIIA Bulletproof [Survival Pack and Safety Kit](#) is a great option for an emergency supply kit. The backpack has both a well-stocked first aid kit and a basic survival supplies kit with a 5-year guaranteed shelf life. The first-aid kit contains enough supplies for 25 people, and includes bandages, antiseptic towelettes, cold compresses, and gloves, among other essentials. The basic survival supply kit includes water, blankets, a flashlight, crank radio, a whistle, tools, and tissues, among others.

All preppers start with making the decision to be proactive and in charge of their own safety and well-being. As said earlier, disaster can strike at any time, so it is crucial to be prepared in terms of having the basic necessities and adequate resources on hand.