

Destiny Survival

Survival Gear & Supplies for Emergency Preparedness & Hard Times

Advice For New Preppers

*Helpful Tips from Readers
at DestinySurvival.com*

by
John Wesley Smith

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Offered free exclusively by DestinySurvival.com

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Advice for New Preppers Introduction

In September 2010 I ran a contest at DestinySurvival.com in honor of National Preparedness Month. I asked what advice readers would give to a new prepper.

I want to thank everyone who participated for their great entries. What follows are the best of those entries.

The names at the bottom of each submission are real because the people are real. But no other means of identification is given to protect the privacy of the contest entrants.

And, of course, I also extend a big Thank You to BePreparedNow.net for their generous prize of a 27 Variety Survival Vegetable Seeds package.

Here's the scenario entrants were asked to respond to. You're hurrying out the door to an important appointment when, right at that moment, a friend rushes up with a concerned look and says she needs to know what to do to start prepping.

She's really anxious. She needs to know now what **one thing** she should do to get started. What should be her top priority? You decide you can spare five minutes. What will you tell her?

I also asked if readers would give different advice to a woman than to a man. Would marital status affect the advice?

By the way, I wasn't looking for a plug for [DestinySurvival](http://DestinySurvival.com), but my thanks to those who mentioned the site.

I trust you'll find something useful here for yourself or for a friend or loved one. As the last entry below points out, now is the time to begin prepping!

- John Wesley Smith
<http://www.destinysurvival.com>

Use Your Head

Congratulations to Octavio Casuso, winner of the 27 variety Vegetable Survival Seeds package from BePreparedNow.net.

Octavio's winning entry captures the notion that your best survival tool is between your ears.

My advice to either a man or a woman would be the same.

Your survival hardware or garden or food cache are not your prime survival tools. You and your knowledge and your attitude are the best and primary survival tools for you to rely on.

I would strongly suggest that this person gain as much knowledge on basic survival skills--vegetable gardening, food preserving, and first aid as possible. Not from the phony survival shows on TV, but from books, easily obtained at your local library, magazines, like "Backwoods Home," which are a wealth of great ideas and information, and online sites such as "Destiny Survival."

I would also strongly suggest that this person practice their new found skills as much as possible. Knowing what to do, and knowing you can perform these skills will give you the positive attitude that is so important to have in any emergency situation.

One of my favorite comments, which usually draws dirty looks, is: Turn off the cartoon network and pick up a book; you'll be surprised what you can achieve with a little bit of knowledge.

Remember, you don't have to work hard if you work smart.

- Octavio Casuso

Set Priorities

This entry emphasizes the importance of establishing priorities.

My advice to someone eager to start prepping is to determine lifestyle priorities. Figure out what things are important enough to try to maintain under survival conditions. Until she determines what aspects of her lifestyle are worth preserving she cannot prepare effectively.

At the end of last year's gardening season I bought a bunch of surplus seeds at half price to plant this year's garden with. Among the pile that I bought were three 15cent packages of turnip seeds. I was thinking I had bought radishes and didn't notice the difference until I pulled the seeds back out of their box several months down the road. At that point I came to a realization: I was prepared to grow turnips, but I didn't like turnips and had no desire to grow them. I had prepared for something that I didn't want to do. My preparations were fine, but they were wasted because I had prepared for the wrong thing.

So my advice (stemming from the above) is to figure out what is important. What are the things you really don't want to be without? Family? Food? Shelter? Something else? These things (once you have determined them) are what you should look into preserving. Determining priorities is something that everyone must do. Diving right into prepping without knowing what's important and why it is worth maintaining causes a lot of wasted effort. And wasting effort is certainly not something we can afford to do while prepping.

- Ethan Snodgrass

First Priorities

As the previous entry pointed out, setting priorities is important. Here are thoughts on priorities to set first.

Here are some ideas for a new prepper. Plan for a quick escape and short range location change. Many emergencies have a high attrition rate in the first week or so. What if for any reason you had to evacuate your dwelling as there were neighborhood riots or police were forcibly relocating people.

Your survival clothes and boots are by the door. Like a fireman you don them and flee to a nearby place of safety. You carry nothing with you so as to conceal your intent on survival flight.

Within walking distance, you have secreted at least a week's supply of necessities buried in one or more five gallon pails. Your refuge might be near a creek which would give you a water source and perhaps foliage cover along the water. Perhaps a tube tent, some dried food, maybe a blanket or mini sleeping bag for you to survive until the initial stage of trouble is over. A windup radio could help you to monitor the situation.

There is a great attrition in the first week of disasters and upheavals. If you can go to a place of safety until this initial upheaval is past, then you have the opportunity to pursue your long term goals. But you must be alive to do it.

-Gerald Franz

Consider Important Needs

This entry not only gives practical advice, but opens the door to further communication later.

If I encountered the young lady in a state of excitement about getting prepped and wanting advice in the limited time I had available I would try to cover what I think are the most important issues she would face first. I would begin by telling her that no matter what did or did not happen she would need water, food, and shelter from the elements before anything else would be of much use.

I would also tell her to consider having a way to filter water and purify it and some way to secure food in the long term. As for shelter I would suggest that even if she owned her home another portable shelter would be good to consider.

I would give the same advice to a family or a man. We all need food and water and a way to shelter from the elements.

To finish up the quick conversation I would tell her to act on what I had mentioned and then to continue getting informed by doing some research on the web and printing out the material she found helpful and put it into binder for reference later.

I would also suggest she email me so I could share a lot more information with her when I was not in a rush.

- Michael French

Make a Plan

If I only had five minutes to enlighten someone who's eager to start prepping, it would be hard not to share everything all at once.

What I like about this entry is the encouragement to stay calm, make a plan and start learning.

First and foremost, I would find out what she feels is the survival issue at hand. For most situations, I would recommend the following simple advice—***don't panic***. Make a plan. Begin with the following:

1. Read and Learn!!! Begin with Destiny Survival.com, Boy Scout Manual, gardening books, etc.
2. Purchase extra staple food items. Purchase items with a long shelf life, store them away safely.
3. Purchase the best water purification system she can afford. Learn how to use it.
4. Obtain multiple methods/fuels to cook food/boil water. Try each method until she learns how to use them properly.
5. Stock up on basic first aid items. Learn basic first aid concepts and techniques.
6. Obtain barter items, silver, gold.
7. Last but not least, learn how to defend what you have.

- AZ Rookie Prepper

Begin Now!

This entry is short and to the point.

Relax, plan what you need, and begin now.

Make a list of basic food needs (and what and where you can grow it), water needs, and security issues; begin slowly-checking off what and when you obtain/purchase/ or make it.

- Lawrence Roberge

Resources

The contest prize was a 27 variety Vegetable Survival Seeds package graciously provided by BePreparedNow.net. Explore this and other great preparedness products at <http://www.bepreparednow.net> . Use code **DestinySurvival** when ordering.

For a full line of products and services for preparedness and survival, visit the Prep Mart at <http://www.destinysurvival.com> .