

# **Readiness Watch for the week of 14 March 2011**

A production by [Dennis L Hitzeman](#) and his [Readiness weblog](#).

## **First things first**

The purpose of *Readiness Watch* is to provide current, relevant, and actionable readiness information to people determined to be ready for whatever comes next, and especially for those people who are just starting their journey down the road to readiness. Readiness Watch will include observations, commentary, advice, links to resources, and related news.

I always welcome input from my readers, especially tips on information or ways to make this publication better. Feel free to [contact me](#) with information, advice, or tips.

## **This week's news theme: Being ready because we never know when disaster will strike**

The news has been focused since Friday on the unfolding disaster in Japan as a result of the earthquake and tsunami that occurred there. More than likely, tens of thousands are dead, hundreds of thousands are displaced, and millions will suffer for years from the ongoing effect of this disaster.

These kinds of events, wherever they might occur, underscore the need for individual readiness. Certainly, being ready will not stop an earthquake or a tsunami, but if individuals are ready, the burden of response and recovery becomes less. Readiness allows the individual to care for himself and to help care for others, thereby allowing emergency responders to focus on those most in need.

## **Oil and unrest, unrest and oil**

While the events in Japan dominated the news over the weekend, the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East is still in the forefront, continuing to add volatility to an already stressed oil market. The price and supply of oil, I believe, is the single most powerful factor influencing the global economy in this decade, and may define the difference between an economic recovery and a return to decline.

## **The effect of world events on you**

It is important to note that world events can affect us right here at home. For instance, Japan's economy is the second (or third, depending on who you ask) largest economy in the world, and the disaster there could return that economy to recession, bringing the rest of the world along with it. The same holds true for other news events like the price of oil, and the shakiness of some of Europe's economies.

Being aware of world events, especially ones that can effect the economy, can help you focus your readiness efforts on mitigating potential consequences.

## **News articles you should read**

[Spain plans to lower its speed limits because of the cost of oil.](#)

[The Justice Department ditches the flag and appeals to international law with its new website design](#)

[Japan's Nikkei ends down 6 percent on first day of trading after quake](#)

[Potential long term effects to Japan's economy as businesses and industries shut down due to the quake](#)

## **Gear**

[Emergency Essentials All-in-one Outdoor Tool](#)

[Inexpensive MREs by the case](#)

## **Be ready now**

Be ready now is a weekly post about things you can do right now to get ready for whatever might come next courtesy of [Dennis L Hitzeman's Readiness Weblog](#). You can find other posts in this series in the "[Be ready now](#)" category.

This week's theme: Planning

- **Immediate**: Discuss and write out plans for such emergencies can include what to do in the case of a fire, a natural disaster, or civil unrest. Immediate readiness plans should include such items as who is involved, what kind of resources will be involved, where those involved should meet, and where they should evacuate to, if necessary. Keep the plans simple, and share copies of what you wrote down with everyone involved.
- **Intermediate**: Consider what resources you and those who depend on you will need to survive for an extended time without electricity or fuel. Can you weather such an extended shortage in place, or will you need to find a better location? What kind of supplies will you need to have on-hand? What can you get from the local area?
- **Long-term**: What would it take to make your living situation independent from regular supplies of outside electricity and fuel? How can you provide for your basic necessities (food, clothing, shelter, etc.) without depending on supplies from retail outlets?

## **Consider donating to the cause**

Do you use Readiness Watch and find the information herein useful to your own readiness initiatives? If so, consider donating to ensure its continued availability. [Contact me](#) for more information.