

Readiness Watch for the week of 21 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: Enduring troubles

The continued unrest in the Middle East, the continued disaster in Japan, and the continued economic instability around the world paint a very specific picture: the troubles that plague our world right now do not appear like they are going to end any time soon.

It is for that reason that it is more important than ever to get ready now. Yes, it is entirely possible that events will stabilize and that conditions will improve, but it is just as likely that they will get worse. It is good to hope for improvement, but it is dangerous to fail to plan for emergencies.

News articles you should read

[The Fed turns a record profit on TARP money](#)

Gear

[Wenger Titanium Knives](#)

[Wall Safe](#)

[Autonomous Paintball Sentry](#)

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: Clothing

- **Immediate:** Put together a clothing kit for each person who is part of your immediate readiness plan. The kit should include, but is not limited to, at least one change of underwear, at least one pair of good quality socks, a pair of work pants or jeans, a

shirt, a sweat shirt, a pair of sweatpants or long underwear (That can be worn under the regular pants), a pair of work gloves, a pair of winter gloves, a stocking cap, a scarf, and a good pair of walking shoes. Other items to consider could be sunglasses, dust masks, simple tools (a Leatherman or equivalent would be a place to start), a winter coat, a rain coat, etc. Pack all of the clothing in a waterproof container or bag and store them in a central location that everyone involved in the plan knows about. If you wear dress clothes to work, consider packing a smaller version of this kit into your car or carry it with you in a backpack. If you carry nothing else, carry walking shoes.

- [Intermediate](#): How much of your clothing is appropriate for an enduring emergency situation? Do you have the capacity to repair your clothing? How will you keep your clothing clean? Consider all of these factors for a period lasting as long as a year. Consider stockpiling extra clothing for everyone involved in your readiness plan.
- [Long-term](#): Do you know someone who can make clothing? Do you know of a local, non-commercial source for fabric and supplies? Consider stockpiling raw materials.

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.