

Readiness Watch for the week of 4 April 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: Looming budget battles, government shutdowns, and national defaults

I have long believed that the events that will initiate the need for widespread readiness will be related to the economic conditions industrialized nations created for themselves in the last half of the 20th and first part of the 21st centuries. Events of the past few years seem to be bearing out that belief in fact.

For instance, various estimates indicate that as much as 60 percent of the population of the United States depends on some level of government for some or all of their basic necessities. This dependence ranges from living only on Social Security, to welfare programs as diverse as Medicaid and food stamps. A government shutdown, especially if it lasts for any length of time, could plunge many, if not most, of these people into dire circumstances in a very short period of time.

Further, there is no guarantee that a government, once shut down, can be restarted. Government shutdowns threaten to unleash social and political pressures that could make restarting the government difficult, if not impossible. If someone is not ready before something like that occurs, what will they do if it does?

It is far better to be ready now.

News articles you should read

[Backyard chickens](#)

[Economists expect Greece to default](#)

[Government is rapidly becoming the largest employer in the United States](#)

[American Apparel potentially headed for bankruptcy](#)

Gear

[Pocket wrench](#)

[Toteable field toilet](#)

[MOLLE Extreme combat uniform](#)

[Hermetically sealed food storage containers](#)

[Orvis Ultimate Traveler's Jacket](#)

[Medieval crossbow](#)

How-to

[Starting a fire](#)

[Remote controlled Airsoft turret](#)

Web sites

[The Slingshot Channel](#) -Slingshots

[Equipped to Survive](#) -Survival resources

[US Cavalry](#) -Military gear

[Orvis](#) -Very high quality clothing

Books

[When Technology Fails](#)

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: [Shelter](#)

- **Immediate:** Buy a tent. It doesn't have to be a good tent, though quality cannot hurt. Make sure you have enough tent space for everyone in your readiness plan. After you buy a tent, buy tarps, rope, and tent stakes.
- **Intermediate:** Is the place you live somewhere you can shelter in place? Is it livable without electricity or air conditioning? If not, what are your options?

- Long-term: Consider stockpiling building materials, especially precut lumber and cinder block. Even if you don't use them for construction, they may come in handy as collateral.

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.

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