

# Readiness Watch for the week of 2 May 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: The death of Osama bin Laden

Bin Laden's death at the hands of US Special Operations forces underscores an important point as one prepares to be ready: There are always people out there ready to do others harm if they are able. Bin Laden was a monster whose actions caused the deaths of thousands and whose rhetoric inspired the deaths of thousands more. While his death may have put to rest a chapter of the saga surrounding 9/11, his 10 year evasion inspired thousands to carry on his work.

Of course, it is impossible to be ready for every kind of scenario, but most kinds of readiness preparations cover a multitude of likelihoods. Also, we should not live our lives in fear, but we should live them in readiness, and our readiness should look no different than our everyday lives if we are truly ready.

## News articles you should read

[Growth less than inflation is no growth at all](#) (via [The Daily Beast](#))

[Tornadoes devastate the South](#)

## Gear

[The Crovel](#) (via [Uncrate](#))

## Websites

[Gear Up Outdoor and Survival Center](#)

## 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: Sanitation

- **Immediate**: The best rule of thumb for proper sanitation is to keep waste products away from people. Consider storing non-potable water for the purpose of flushing toilets, and designate a place to dispose of trash and other waste at least 50 yards downwind and down-water from people. Do not dispose of waste near well heads or open water. Make sure you have sanitation supplies, such as toilet paper and trash bags, on hand. Consider purchasing a [sanitation kit](#) to allow for safe storage and removal of waste.
- **Intermediate**: Consider purchasing [a self-composting toilet or self-composting waste system](#) for the number of people involved in your readiness plan. Locate sites for compost piles and trash pits that are at least 50 yards away from water supplies and are downwind from human habitation areas.
- **Long-term**: Long-term sanitation involves finding ways to permanently dispose of waste products and will generally involve three components: disposing of human waste, disposing food waste, and disposing of or recycling non-food waste.
  - Human waste can be safely buried at least 50 yards away from potable water sources, and functioning septic systems (that is ones that have access to water) will continue to function if cared for. Otherwise, an outhouse with a leach bed or a self-composting toilet can also be used. At worst, a pit that is periodically buried or burned can be used.
  - Food waste (yes, even meat and bones) can be composted, although compost sites should be located away from water areas. Composting can be accelerated by adding animal feces to the compost, by the regular addition of soil, and by turning the compost periodically.
  - Non-food waste should be handled based on what it might be. In a long-term readiness situation, most waste will need to be recycled for its raw material value.

## Consider donating to the cause

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