

# Readiness Watch for the week of 9 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 Mighty Mississippi

I can think of no other more challenging readiness scenarios than being forced to evacuate in the face of sudden, encroaching danger. The flooding along the Mississippi gives us another graphic reminder that such threats are real and must be prepared for.

The best and most comprehensive readiness plans all involve an evacuation plan, and the best and most comprehensive evacuation plans have specific, simple, and detailed procedures for everyone involved in the plan. Know where you're going, know how to get there, and know what to do if you can't. Whatever you do, don't become a refugee.

## News articles you should read

[Mississippi flooding](#) (Don't be put off by the fact that it is a web comic's blog. [Randall Munroe](#) can be a serious writer and makes some very serious points here.)

## Gear

[Jeep Wrangler Mojave](#)

[Pocket Screwdriver](#)

[Silky Bigboy 360 Folding Saw](#) (via [Uncrate](#))

[North Face Flyweight Rucksack](#) (via [Uncrate](#))

[Survive-All C7001X Survive-All Vest III, X-Large](#)

## 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: Bugging out

- **Immediate**: The main part of being ready to bug out is to know where you are headed. Develop a plan around the kinds of emergencies that might occur in your area and consider everyone involved in your backup plan. Be sure to have secondary and even tertiary rendezvous points in case the primary location becomes inaccessible. Also, be sure that everyone involved in your plan has the **proper gear** available in the case of a bug out. Such kits should contain at least a three day supply of food and water as well as appropriate foot and weather gear.
- **Intermediate**: Consider what you will do if a bug out lasts more than a few days. Where will you go? Why will you go there? If you are headed toward a particular place, is anyone there expecting you? How will you get there? For every answer, you should also develop alternatives.
- **Long-term**: Plan how not to be a refugee. Refugees are people fleeing an emergency but who do not have the capacity to care for themselves in any appreciable way. The best way not to become a refugee is to accumulate the necessary gear and skills to be able to survive even if every other part of your plan falls apart. For instance, learn how to hunt with simple tools like bows or spears and learn how to properly prepare and preserve meat. Learn how to start fires without matches, and so on.

### **Consider donating to the cause**

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