

Readiness Watch for the week of 16 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: Spillway disaster

While the opening of the various Mississippi River spillways has been justified as a measure necessary to save the cities of Baton Rouge and New Orleans, they also represent a government incited, man-made disaster inflicted on the thousands of people whose land, homes, and towns will now be flooded by as much as 30 feet of water over the next several days.

What would you do if you had to leave everything you have and may never be able to return? This is the reality facing thousands of people in Mississippi right now, and no one watching this kind of disaster unfold and who cares about being ready can fail to think about what they might do in a similar situation.

News articles you should read

[Building workshop machines from recycled parts](#) (via the [Make blog](#))

[Spillway flooding](#)

Gear

[Stanley FatMax Xtreme](#) portable truck box (via [Uncrate](#)) -Keep your readiness gear safe and dry.

[Killspencer Bags](#) (via [Wired](#)) -Military style gear bags and backpacks.

[Kanz Outdoors K120 Field Kitchen](#) (via [Uncrate](#)) -A self contained field kitchen for outdoor living.

[Penetration shovel](#) (via [Uncrate](#)) -A sharp blade shovel for digging in hard to dig soils.

Websites

[Kanz Outdoors](#)

[Garret Wade Tools](#)

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: Transportation

- [Immediate](#): Maintain a fuel reserve for every vehicle you own. Optimally, your reserve should include enough fuel to refill each vehicle's tank once. Take care to store fuel in proper containers and in safe areas. Keep each vehicle's tank filled to at least a quarter tank, with a half tank being better.
- [Intermediate](#): How will you transport yourself if fuel or vehicles are not available? If you intend to walk or bike, are you physically fit enough to make the trip?
- [Long-term](#): Consider owning alternative forms of transportation, such as bicycles, quad-cycles, or rideable animals.

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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