

# Readiness Watch for the week of 20 June 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: Start planning now

The worst time to start getting ready is when disaster has already struck. The best thing anyone can do for themselves and their families is to ensure that they are as ready as they can be, come what may.

Being ready is an intentional act and is one that requires a certain amount of planning and personal sacrifice to pull off. Those who are most ready make significant lifestyle changes so that events have as little effect as possible on what they do.

Perhaps such changes are too extreme for everyone, but having a stockpile of water, food, and clothing and plans for what to do if you can't stay where you are or if an emergency is of an enduring nature may make the difference between being a survivor and being a victim in many cases.

## Gear

[The Dual Saw](#) (via [Uncrate](#))

[Chicago Electric Double Cut Saw](#) (cheaper Harbor Freight version of the Dual Saw)

## Websites

[The Contrary Farmer](#)

[Mother Earth News](#)

## 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: Establishing self-sufficiency

- [Immediate](#): Make a list of all of the things you depend on in order to provide yourself and the people to depend on you with necessities. Such a list will likely include things like your source of income, where your food, clothing, and shelter come from, and similar things. Next, make a list of how you could provide for the same necessities if one or more of the things you currently depend on become unavailable. Finally, make a plan for how to implement each change will take place.
- [Intermediate](#): Consider replacing things you depend on others to do for you by paying them with things you do yourself. If you are unable to do them yourself, seek out the most local source for the thing you are paying for. Pay special attention to the sources of your most basic necessities.
- [Long-term](#): The best way to establish self-sufficiency is to surround yourself with people trying to do the same thing. Typically, such people gravitate to small, rural farm communities, and they do so because of the lower population density, the access to arable land, and the general tendency for rural people to be more self-sufficient than city dwellers. Before undertaking such a task, carefully consider what you can add to such a community--that is, what are you going to do to be self-sufficient yourself that would compliment what others are already doing.

### 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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