Isolation

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One of the worst things concerning any sort of disaster is the human isolation factor. Humans by their very nature are social creatures. They desire and thrive on friendships and companionship of other people. Over the years we have seen how various disasters separate humans from one another and the results experienced with such separations.

Thinking back to the 2005 Hurricane Katrina which struck in the southern portion of the country and now to the current Hurricane Harvey, we can readily compare what the state of companionship is when such events take place. Now imagine for a moment that things get really bad this winter for us here in Delaware. We do not usually have harsh winter weather in our area but with all the strange weather which is now taking place it is entirely possible.

Suppose for a moment that this winter brought us heavy snow and unusually cold weather. In such a case we would experience a similar situation up north. No matter how well prepared one may think they are with all kinds of food stocked up and other emergency supplies, one major question on all preppers mind should be what if a problem developed can somebody get to me and my family? I could likely list numerous potential problems however I am certain you already have some idea as to what they are, some large and some small.

It isn't all about having backup power or sufficient supplies of food and necessities although they are important it all boils down to the fact involving isolation. I have always advocated avoiding public shelters at all cost however for some these gatherings can be a lifesaver. In making that decision several questions get our attention. Can we get out of our home and to another location if needed or better yet can others get to us if necessary? Our next thought might border on whether there is anyone who can come to our location in an emergency. Do people even know that we are here or have we slipped behind the wire and remain unknown? How about communications? Do we have any sort of way to contact anyone if the need arises?

Although in general, fellow preppers look at several actions such as one's health and above all their age. This however, does not preclude the fact that anyone is capable of falling and breaking a leg or arm. Anyone can get sick beyond what the normal first aid training can help with. If you have small children and infants you run a grave risk of them needing medical attention. Can it be obtained?

What if you have a flood potential and have you must leave your home, would you do it? In 1972 in upper New York just such an event took place. Many people left their homes and traveled to the safety at the local school. In all, those interviewed faired very well and actually enjoyed the companionship of their fellow neighbors. The entire village sheltered at the school and actually enjoyed the efforts set forth. Each family took one classroom. One lady who was a hairdresser took one of the bathrooms and did the hair for other women. Several men who were doctors took over the nurse's office and helped the ill and sick in conjunction with several nurses being on hand. Most people slept on the floor but blankets were brought in for everyone. To make the people feel more at home the postmaster and the police department arranged sorting boxes and set up a miniature post office at one of the tables in the school's cafeteria. The older woman made food in the school kitchen while men worked with the police and fire department to watch the village homes. The school gym was opened and the older kids took responsibility for entertaining the younger children. Had these people remained at their cold and damp home they would have not have experienced the friendship expressed by others. When it was over the Red Cross sent everyone home with enough food for a few days such as canned chicken and powdered milk.

All in all it was quite an adventure for these people. Everybody was safe, warm, fed and taken care of. Perhaps this human bonding was one of the unseen benefits of a disaster of this type.