

Should you invest in a Scanner?

By Joseph Parish

I have several friends who seem to be addicted to eavesdropping upon the goings on of the various police and fire activities carried out over the small handheld scanners. Unlike the earlier versions of these scanners from years back they are all self-contained and no specific crystal selection is necessary. I personally have one of these small units and they are great to use. All you need to do is basically select a specific band and you are set to go.

Although I am not that versed in scanner knowledge I am aware that the older units that use the crystals are not adequate in picking up the newer frequency channels of today's emergency departments. Naturally, the cost is not really that great when one considers the advantages of such a unit.

For us as a survivalist group such a scanner that can pick up all the necessary frequencies used by the police, fire and public services departments could be of major use in the event of a developing emergency. With a unit like this, one could readily tell where the police are experiencing problems as you attempt to bug out and get to your emergency retreat. By properly listening to it you would be able to avoid rioting groups invading stores or taking control of gasoline stations. You would know ahead of time of any major fires that you may be heading towards as you are traveling. During pandemic situations you would be able to listen to the police and Emergency Medical Services as they give updates on areas of concern in your city or town. You will know in advance of any areas these emergency services are trying to contain and of course you are then able to avoid entering those parameters.

I had toyed with the idea of whether I wanted to purchase a handheld scanner or a fixed, station one and decided upon the portable unit. The base station models have to be stationary and in many cases require a fixed antenna mounted somewhere outside your home. In addition, during an emergency I suspect that I may be mobile and want up to date information as it is occurring. With the base station version I would likely miss those important announcements that I most need while traveling. A handheld unit that has a plug which can accept an external antenna would be the idea selection and usable in both the home and field service.

As you can gather there is value in selecting a scanner for inclusion in your emergency supplies and bug out kits, you merely have to choose one wisely.

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