

My Thoughts on Gray Man, Gray Woman, Appearing Homeless, and Similar Subjects

Dropping off the radar

While going gray, dark, analog, off-grid, or whatever you wish to call it, in an attempt to prevent government, or even some corporate, tracking and subsequent contact that you do not want, is not going to be as easy as some may make it sound. There are lots of good ideas out there. But the problem is, if you are already on any kind of list of people of interest, the 'doing' of the change is likely to trigger a very intrusive inquiry into your activities long before you can reach a point of being truly difficult to find.

I feel it is much better to maintain a known profile so that those that might eventually want to get in touch with you can occasionally check and be assured that they still know where you are, and when the time comes, to drop into a persona you have created over time, that has no bearing or relationship with your original one. This will not take you off the radar, so to speak, but it should allow one to drop down into the background noise of the radar, where it is very difficult to be found unless one is a major target and the government or corporations put their full effort into finding you.

I have stated it before, but I will reiterate it. I have been on the anti-survivalist radar since the late 70s/early 80s. I do not try to hide from TPTB. And therefore am not too concerned with these types of security situations. It is basically too late for me to try to hide this kind of information. However, that is not to say that I do not have plans that take this situation into account. There are always options. Some are much better than others, of course, but when those are not viable, there are some others.

Every step helps make it harder for computerized systems to break codes. I was aware of the cascading of methods, but I still believe it is better to not use any of the most commonly used books for any step of the procedure. I am sure that TPTB already has pretty much all versions of the bible and other religious texts (US Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and similar documents that have meaning to the people that use them) in their code-breaking systems, as well as many other texts that have commonly been used as a source of page/line/word coding, and other methods of 'same book' coding.

They can run through all of those extremely quickly, applying many other coding systems in conjunction, with both before and after-use techniques. I prefer to use a book or document that is not particularly common but is available in same edition copies. And not things, like the 'Freedom Documents' listed above, that the logic

systems can predict what a given person might use. For me, I will never use any of my own works, any other Prep/PAW fiction, any of the science fiction I am prone to read such as Robert A. Heinlein, and many other types of works that even a simple investigation would find.

Not about to say what I will/would use, but it will not be anything that will be easy to associate with my thought processes.

My experience with ciphers and codes is a bit limited. Most of the coding systems I have used have been very old hat, but using very modern versions or twists on the originals. Some date back to ancient Greece, Rome, Egypt, and the far east civilizations. And while the following might give a hint, I do not think it is a big risk for me to say that I make up my own systems, not based on any other system (Of which I am aware. I could be reinventing things at times.), that use a different logic pattern than I am known for, or any of the most common logic systems in use.

Burning bars are also known as thermal lances. They are an exothermic cutting and breaching tool used in mining, demolition, and several other businesses and industries. No links, so you can use your own search methods, but look for burning bars, thermal lances, Oxy lance, Caldo burning bars, Thermolance, and Broko-Rankin.

Well, as stated in my earlier post, there are certain things that can be done about many of the aspects of AI being incorporated into several systems that could affect us in the future. Part of my plan is to acquire the items listed, practice the techniques listed, and extremely limit my exposure to many of the devices that are becoming so common.

As to going hermit, I do not think this is a viable option for many. However, a person (not me, of course) could make certain preparations now, for the time when it will not only be a viable option, but a very desirable one. I do not want to post the details here, but there are quite a few things that can be done to have things ready when the time is right to fall into the ground clutter of the radar, as long as 'they' are not actively looking for you from the start of the event.

I am rather careful about how I use the internet. But I do use it heavily. However, I have been on the radar since the late 70s/early 80s, and from the early days of the internet as we know it now. Any attempt to change my methods now would draw attention to me. So I watch my Ps & Qs and have a plan to deal with things if the time

ever comes I need to do something about that radar. Disclaimer: Of course, I would never do anything illegal. And this could all just be my imagination, of course.

Not one hundred percent sure what all you are looking for, so I am including quite a few things. Might not all apply to your needs. And some of them are commercial items, and you may not have access to them. Although most are available online, often Amazon.

My EDC (Every Day Carry) is extensive. It varies a bit, mostly additions when I go to the field.

- 1) Prescription glasses w/Transition lenses
- 2) Samsung Android Smartphone loaded with prep apps
- 3) 10,000+ mAHr power pack w/mini-USB, iPhone, and USB C connectors, Solar and wall USB charger input port
- 4) 2x slim USB drive
- 5) Quality handheld 2-meter Amateur radio w/spare batteries & AAA battery case
- 6) Petzl TacTikka + RGB headlight
- 7) Maglite Solitaire LED flashlight
- 8) USB rechargeable LED flashlight
- 9) GeoTube w/Duracell Quantum AAA batteries
- 10) Redi-edge knife sharpener
- 11) Tubular whistle
- 12) MK Torch lighter
- 13) USB rechargeable lighter
- 14) Deejo 15-gram plain finish pocket knife
- 15) Victorinox Swiss Lite SAK w/plain blade, scissors, LED, pen, toothpick, and Tweezers
- 16) Leatherman Micra multi-tool
- 17) Redi-edge knife sharpener
- 18) P-51 can opener
- 19) Res-Q-Me seatbelt cutter/window breaker
- 20) Medications in a cache tube
- 21) 2x bandannas
- 22) Eyeglass screwdriver tool
- 23) GeoTube w/eyeglass screws
- 24) 3x handcuff keys

- 25) Write-In-The-Rain notebook w/Fresnel lens
- 26) 2x Fisher tactical clip cap Space pens
- 27) Write-In-The-Rain mechanical pencil
- 28) Mini Sharpie
- 29) Seiko SNZG15K1 self-winding watch
- 30) Leatherman Free P4 multi-tool in a belt pouch
- 31) Victorinox WorkChamp SAK in a belt pouch
- 32) Surefire G2 LED flashlight in a belt pouch
- 33) All-brass Zippo lighter in belt pouch w/2 fuel tubes
- 34) 2x Kleen Kanteen stainless steel wide-mouth water bottles w/flip ring caps w/carabiner clipped to belt loop
- 35) 10-count package of Katadyn MicroPur MP-1 water purification tablets
- 36) Permethrin-treated clothing
 - 1) Proper khaki cargo pants
 - 2) Proper 2-pocket khaki shirt w/epaulets
 - 3) Bullhide belts leather money belt w/cash & PMs
 - 4) Leather suspenders
 - 5) WinterSilks V-neck T-shirt
 - 6) WinterSilks boxer briefs
 - 7) Merino wool socks
 - 8) Leather safari jacket w/light leather gloves
 - 9) Henschel wide-brim hat
 - 10) Pocket no-see-um headnet
 - 11) Mission EnduraCool multi-cool tube scarf
 - 12) Leather wallet w/Ready-Man wallet lock pick, survival & E&E cards, folding knife; Folding LED lamp
 - 13) Danner hard-toe lace-up boots
 - 14) Glock 21SF and 4 spare magazines in IWB holster/pouches
 - 15) Crook handle cane or Shepard's hook

Add for winter:

- 1) Insulated leather gloves
- 2) Ear warmers
- 3) Silk or wool scarf/shemagh
- 4) Winter Silks silk and/or Merino wool V-neck long john shirt and pants
- 5) Silk sock and glove liners
- 6) Silk balaclava
- 7) Merino wool balaclava
- 8) Second layer wool socks

- 9) Toe, foot, and hand warmer packets
- 10) CaBoots lambswool lined shotgun boots

My thoughts on prepping for being homeless:

Being homeless has many common elements with being a refugee. The main difference is a homeless person usually does not have to move long distances very often, if at all. There are some differences, of course. One is that a homeless person will usually have many more resources available to them, since this is primarily about an urban environment. Refugees traveling openly or clandestinely will not have much access to anything, either because things have already been picked over, or they will be with a group so there simply is not enough to go around. And often the locals will not share anything with refugees anyway.

A homeless person, as well as a refugee, needs to learn some specific skills, which will be as important as what they have with them. Learning gray man techniques is obvious. But other skills are necessary, too. The ability and knowledge on how to scope out safe places to stay and sleep, to get potable water, places to avoid, places to hunt/fish with minimal equipment, and how to hide effectively. Another major skill is the concealment of possessions both on your body and in caches.

The following is from a post I did on refugees, but much of it does apply. I will add some additional thoughts below it.

I see at least two options here. Both are basically INCH situations. But one is such that you are traveling mostly alone, with no assistance, and little interference. In this case, a full INCH kit, on a cart or bicycle with a trailer, so you can start over in a self-sufficient method with the basics such as hunting, gardening, shelter building, etc. You would be able to stop anywhere there is arable land, put up a shelter, hunt or otherwise acquire meat, start up a business, and go from there. You will still need all the paperwork that has been mentioned, including forms of ID, ownership papers, licenses and permits, insurance info, financial records, 'paper' assets, etc. Finances may or may not be extremely important, though you do always want some form of 'money', plus you can have trade/barter goods.

The other is still an INCH situation, but one where you will not have the opportunity to take a fully self-sufficient INCH kit. It might be impractical due to location, the authorities are confiscating everything, there are lots of people and your gear is likely to be taken, you have to travel set routes where a heavy cart is not practical, or you

will have the opportunity (or requirement) to travel on transports that will not be able to take large amounts of gear. In this second case, you will need to travel light and be as 'gray' as possible to blend in with everyone else. In order to start over, it will take monetary value, since you will not have the means to do things with your own gear, equipment and other resources. So 'money', and other lightweight, concealable valuables that can be easily converted into acceptable forms of payment will need to be carried. So will the same paperwork as stated.

To make this as easy and secure as possible, some specially made or modified clothing can be used to carry these valuables clandestinely. Hidden pockets to carry items, or having some of the items completely sewn in or constructed as part of the clothing, and a small pack or bag. Anything of any size might not be allowed to be kept with you, or at all. So keep the carrier small. In some cases wearing all, or most of your clothing, in layers, is better than carrying them in a suitcase or such. If nothing else, have plenty of cordage so you can tie slings on clothing and parcels and carry them slung over a shoulder, or tied to a belt. As part of the clothing, PMs can be incorporated into the design and construction.

As a refugee, you are probably heading for 'civilization' where such things can be converted into spendable resources. The same goes for being homeless during 'normal' time. In a true PAW situation converting raw materials could be a real problem.

At the refugee destinations, there will most likely be people eager to take valuables off your hands. Some will give real value, and others will try to lowball you, but that is the case now, anyway, if you are homeless. You just need to learn some trade and barter skills now, so you can get the value of the items that are reasonable. Just remember that what you paid in current FRNs now for that item has no bearing on what that item will be worth in disaster refugee situations.

Things like real gold or silver buttons, collar stays, belt buckles, purse hardware, and such; plus ring/bracelets/necklaces with or without real gold coins; watches, business card cases, pens, key chains, and all sorts of items that most will take to be costume jewelry or just gold-toned, silver-toned, or just base metal. Precious metal items should be a minimum of 14-carat gold or sterling silver or better.

They will need to be carried concealed, for the most part, with one or two items such as an extra wedding ring or a gold chain necklace worn openly. I would do only some jewelry, with much of the value in simple gold and silver items so there is not much

additional cost tied up in the design. Chances are, as a refugee or a homeless person, you will only get the bullion value anyway. There is always a huge difference of opinion on how much a fancy or elaborate piece is worth. Most people that buy gold and silver buy only for the metal. The design means nothing to them.

The same goes for jewelry with stones, especially colored stones. Since stones, including diamonds, are very hard to value to start with, even now, getting anything from someone not actually in the investment diamond business will not give anything near true value, no matter what the quality of the diamond. And since colored gems are even harder to price, the chances of getting anything for them in a jewelry piece are pretty much slim and none.

It is much better to have \$500 in gold bullion value in a \$550 item than \$200 of gold value in a \$500 gold and diamond necklace. You will only get the \$200 for the gold, if that.

If you do have enough money that you need concentrated value, investment-grade diamonds are an option. But only true investment-grade stones. And they should only be used if somewhere close to true value can be obtained. Although, as with PMs, it is not what you actually paid in FRNs when you acquired them, it is what you can get for them when it really counts. But you do need to get value for value, if at all possible.

Gold and silver coins, and any investment-grade gems you might acquire, should be kept carefully hidden for use in extreme circumstances. The other items are to be converted to whatever is the local currency, whereas the coins can be used as actual currency, most likely. Everything of value should be spread out over the body, in the clothing, among any bags, and across the group if you are part of a group.

In terms of non-financial items, a second, and possibly third set of clothing already prepared for the situation should be carried. At the very least several pairs of socks and two or three sets of underwear should be kept on your person. Some personal sanitation items, including small containers of cleansers for yourself, your clothes, and your eating instruments should be on you. And do take your own eating tools, at least a tablespoon size spoon. A fork should be okay. A table knife might or not make it. A sharp knife if at all possible. A multi-tool and/or large Swiss Army knife could take the place of a table knife and fill several other functions, too. These should not be a problem for a homeless person, except in some shelters. A refugee might not be allowed to have anything at all sharp.

Carry a folding handle stainless steel cup of at least 12 ounces, up to 24 ounces, with 16-18 ounces probably the best. If it has volume markings, so much the better. It can be used for drinking or eating, and cooking in some instances.

Have two or three bandanas, for use as handkerchiefs, dust masks, first-aid uses, water filtration, hair band, and all the other hundred or so uses bandanas have. A wide-brimmed hat and inexpensive but UVA/UVB sunglasses can be important in some situations. So can gloves. Socks have already been mentioned. If you do not have gloves, having lots of warm socks means you can use a pair or two as mittens, if needed. You want good, but worn in, low hiking boots. Sneakers may sound good, but you might have to traverse some rough ground where sneakers will not hold up. And you sure do not want expensive-looking, not even fake, 'collector' type footwear.

Make sure none of the items make you stand out or tend to catch the eye. You do not want gold or silver flashing, you do not want a bright orange beanie, colorful clothing, or expensive-looking clothing (even if it is expensive due to its construction or materials, you do not want it to look that way). The same goes for handbags, packs, and such. A really good leather jacket, that is not too adorned, would be the high limit of something that might look valuable or coveted.

Have a good water bottle. Normally I would recommend a large stainless steel water bottle, but you might have trouble hanging on to it. Better as a refugee or as a homeless person to have several small plastic water bottles that you can stash in your gear so you never look like you have a lot of water. Might have one uninsulated SS bottle to heat up water for warmth or to purify water. Or the folding handle stainless steel cup can be used for that.

The same goes for food. Small individually wrapped portions are better than large packages of food. Try to eat and drink privately, if at all possible. And never eat or drink very much at a time, unless your times are very limited by circumstances or the authorities.

When traveling, and usually when making stops, try to stay with a group of people. But stay near the edge of the group so you can break away if needed. But you do not want to be a lone target under most circumstances. If you are traveling with family or a cohesive group, have at least one person travel separately, but close enough to help from the outside if needed. There should be no contact between anyone in the

group and the person, except for the same type of casual, minimal contact one would have between all refugees.

If homeless, being with a group still has some advantages. But there are significant risks, as well. You are very likely to get rolled, or if female, rolled and assaulted. It often pays to get away from the group to eat and/or sleep in a private spot that you can either defend or get away from easily, unless not being with a group is significantly more dangerous for some reason.

If you are a refugee, once you get to a place where you can safely separate from the refugee group and set up your own operation, convert a portion of your assets to usable currency and start getting some type of homestead started, if possible. If not, arrange for a place to live; start a viable business or get a job to get an income stream started. Then you can decide what you want to do permanently.

Some items that might be useful for someone in an urban/suburban homeless situation. It would be best to obtain these items now, when a person has the means, though some of them might be found after the fact.

Dickies work shirts and pants are a good choice for clothing. They are sturdy and are good enough to be repaired if needed.

Several of the better quality water bottles. Better not to have really large ones. And stay away from the really flimsy cheap ones. You will need to be able to refill and use them several times each.

A 4-way outside hydrant key to access water hydrants that do not have a handle on the outside of buildings

2 to 4 direct kill rat traps to catch squirrels and pigeons. Modify them by drilling a hole through the base and attaching a cord that can be secured to something so the animal or bird cannot drag it away. Or a cat or other animal grab the animal or bird and try to make off with it.

As many abandoned newspapers you can get and keep dry. They can be used as tinder for starting fires, and have long been used by the homeless and refugees as insulation for their clothing and especially for their bedding.

A long wool overcoat. Does not have to be pristine. It should be in decent shape, and not infused with really bad odors, but it does not have to be showroom floor new looking. Better if it is not.

A wool blanket if you can acquire one at a thrift shop or military surplus store. Get some blanket safety pins, too.

Since the risk of losing things to theft or having to abandon items if you are rousted from where you are without a chance to gather up things, keep your cooking kit simple. Get a decent side-cut can opener so you can make your cooking kit out of canned food cans. By using the side cutter can opener, the open cans will not have sharp edges, and neither will the lids, which will fit back on the can nicely for a lid. If you keep some small screws, a piece of wood can turn into a lid handle. And a metal coat hanger makes a good bail. This is where a decent multi-tool comes into play.

Try to always have some food with you. But be practical. It should be shelf stable, of course, even in hot summer outside temperatures and cold outside temperatures. It should be as nutritious as you can afford and must be able to be prepared with the gear you have. Always try to have some things that do not need cooking. Do not forget some comfort food. Everyone needs something they really like to eat to cheer themselves up occasionally.

Several Zip-lock bags can be extremely useful. Some smaller ones can be pretty lightweight, but having a few heavy-duty large ones can be very useful for some things, especially your extra socks and underwear.

A set of toiletries should be carried in a Ziplock so any spills do not get all over everything. The toiletries are important so you can keep yourself not only clean for health reasons, but presentable in case you apply for aid or for a job. The small trial-size versions are good. Do not forget a plastic mirror so you can shave or put on a bit of makeup as the case might be.

Have a few needles of several sizes, including curved ones, with some good thread. Not only to repair clothing but to modify it if you have to replace your original

modified clothing. Adding inside pockets is very good. But actually opening a seam and sewing things inside is often a better way to hide things.

Keep a few small garbage bags. You will be less likely to be hassled if you clean up after yourself and keep any place you occupy clean and tidy. Use the smaller garbage bags to bag up your trash and place it in a dumpster or street trash can. Using small bags will bring less notice than trying to stuff a 33-gallon trash bag in a 20-gallon street trash container.

But get some heavy-duty trash bags as well. Contractor's clean up bags if possible. These are very useful for shelter, sleeping bag covers, use as a poncho, making a water crossing raft, and many other things.

Especially useful are pockets inside the sleeves of a light jacket. Sewn to the lining, the stitches cannot be seen on the outside of the jacket. Down a few inches in the upper arm and/or up a few inches from the sleeve cuff. Unless you are forced to take the jacket off and someone turns the sleeve inside out, the pockets are not likely to be found. Be careful to only put flat items in them so they do not imprint on the outside of the sleeve. These are a good place to stash paper currency.

Other ways to hide currency are in a person's shoes, especially between the sole and a removable insole. In the palm of your hand when wearing fairly tight gloves.

Keep a few ones and a five or two in your main wallet with some type of ID, that you use most of the time and people will know you have it. But keep most of your money in other places, so if you are rolled or robbed, hopefully, they will take the wallet and leave it at that.

One good reason to carry a decent walking stick or staff is that you can tightly lace a leather grip on them, with a bit of cash underneath. And it has many other uses, as you can imagine.

Keep a second wallet, well hidden, with additional ID, money, a debit and/or credit card, and a few specialty wallet tool cards. Ready-Man wallet lock-pick, survival, and E&E cards; and a folding knife card.

Always try to keep a bottle or two of quality multivitamins. It is especially important if you are not getting a balanced diet. They will not keep you going by any means, but they will help keep you healthier.

While the standard carrier for homeless people tends to be a (stolen) grocery cart or a large backpack, and sometimes just garbage bags, a couple of alternatives are available, if obtained whenever possible. A child-size wagon, if a decent one like a Western Flyer, a small garden cart, or a folding four-wheel cart will all do.

One other alternative I have used (not because I was homeless, but as a bugout test), is a pair of 5-, 6-, or 7-gallon buckets with lids, and a broomstick or old closet pole. If you can get them beforehand and do a few things to them, so much the better. But even scrounging them up later is fine.

Drill through the ends of the pole, and install a small J-hook in each end, with a washer, lock washer, and nut on each side of the pole. Using old cloth, towels, scrap foam, or pretty much anything soft, wrap the center twelve to eighteen inches of the pole, and Gorilla tape over it to make a thick pad.

Using either some light dog chain, rope, or small-diameter steel cable, with a couple of S-hooks, you can suspend the two buckets, one at each end, from the pole, and carry quite a bit that way.

You do have to be careful with the pace of your walk so the buckets do not start swinging together in sync and throw off your stride.

A better alternative, if you can swing it, is to get a canoe portaging yoke and cut it down to an appropriate width so you can put your hands on the bucket handles to steady them when the yoke is behind your head on your shoulders.

Even if you are using some type of cart or wagon, having the buckets and carrying them in the cart or wagon is still a good way to go.

Some other things to have, if at all possible, are a small roll of Gorilla duct tape, a real cooking pot with a lid, several pads of toilet paper in a zip-lock bag, a coil of mechanic's wire, a multi-tip screwdriver, pair of water pump pliers, a good roofing hammer, and a hacksaw blade. Keep a container with a few odds and ends of screws, nails, and bolts.

Try to hang onto some quarters so you can do laundry once in a while if you cannot find a shelter where you can do it.

And while I know there are often shelters for the homeless in many cities, do check them out before use. Find out their rules. And do your very best to find out if bedbugs or lice are a problem. You do not want to be dealing with either one.

Depending on circumstances, you can add various items of camping and survival gear, and if you can, considering some of the places you may have to go, a much more extensive EDC that can include some of the items listed.

One other item that might be of help is a Scott EVest, which is an internal pocket vest similar to a fisherman's pocket vest, but with the pockets inside rather than outside. But a bit expensive.

Some additional skills it would pay to learn and practice now.

- 1) Learn to keep an eye out for suitable shelter spots. For sleeping, for staying warm, for staying dry, for staying cool, for hiding out, to get out of the wind and dust, and for fallout protection, just in case.
- 2) Learn how to make small caches for your various pieces of gear. You want them to be fairly accessible, but not obvious. Some do not need to be very big, just large enough to stash a Ziplock bag of items, though some might need to be big enough to take a 5-gallon bucket.
- 3) Learn how to use various items for creating windbreaks and simple shelters with items found in suburban neighborhoods.
- 4) Learn how to use various items to insulate yourself and make insulated beds.
- 5) Learn how to use plastic sheets, garbage bags, and tarps to make dry bedding spots.

A few thoughts on expedient equipment:

Shelter – I keep an eye out for local safe-havens, such as buildings with basements. Construction sites with lumber and sheet goods (metal, wood, foam, etc.) to build a

quick shelter. Tight underpasses that can be blocked with retaining wall materials or plain old dirt. Retaining walls that can be dug into quickly and shored up.

Metal bed dump trucks, especially belly dumps, that can have sheet goods laid across the top of the bed and covered with earth (block open the belly dump gates so no one loses a leg!).

Libraries (stack the books into thick, tight walls. Cover with upended tables and desks with more books stacked on top to create a tunnel shelter. A handy bull dozer and semi-truck box or reefer trailer. (Doze a slot in the ground, park the trailer in the slot, push the dirt against and over the trailer. Leave an entrance, though.) Lots of medium trash bags and a shovel to make sand bags. Lots of sand! (BIG sandbox for the kids. Fill around swing sets/play sets. [dig down a couple of feet and fill with sand] Any container that needs fill [flower pot stands, basketball backboard supports, flower pot stands/flower box support structures. Anywhere and everywhere sand can be stashed for use as sandbag fill [and other uses described below.]

Stoves – A metal pan with a thick layer of sand and a cup of gasoline. (And a good airtight cover to put it out!)(and another, bigger, pan with sand to put it on, for safety. A couple of metal coffee cans you can punch holes in, cut an access slot in, and invert and burn anything burnable. (A pan of sand is handy to put it on.) Anything burnable put in, on, or under anything metal. (always with a safe base! More sand, maybe?)

Communications – Several good mirrors for expedient helio-graph for daytime long distance comm. Flashlight with momentary contact button. (not too common now a-days. Hand over the lens works pretty good to send Morse if your flashlight doesn't have a momentary contact button. If you don't know and don't want to learn Morse code, set up your own code for specific words or phrases and keep a chart with your flashlights. Set of flags/wands/etc for signaling. Ditto as for Morse code for flashlights.

Lighting – Use a large mirror outside to shine through a window, and use additional mirrors to direct the light where you need it.

Air filters – Big sponges. Tightly woven cloth.

Air pumps – Cloth and sticks to make large fans. Used in concert, will move huge amounts of air.

Water filtration – Sand comes to mind again. So does cheesecloth and muslin. Buckets and pans for containers, some with holes in the bottom to hold the filtering material (did I mention sand?) that drain into those without holes. Some plain charcoal, commercial or homemade, (not easy-light or has any charcoal with chemicals in it). Crush up the charcoal and put a thick layer on top of a layer of sand in the bottom and add more sand on top.

Food sources – Coat hanger bent into a circle, with a pair of pantyhose attached for a fishing net/insect net. (Roasted grasshopper isn't my first choice, but it is protein!) Carving fork lashed to a broom handle. (File a couple of barbs into it if you have the means. Bed sheet with weights tied to the edges to throw over small game and a baseball bat to dispatch same.

Pack – take a pair of stout pants and tie the ends of the legs off to make long tubes. Thread a line through the belt loops so you can cinch down the waist. Connect the ends of the legs with another piece of line. Fill the legs and seat area of the pants with whatever you need to carry and cinch the waist. Place the crotch of the pants on one shoulder with one leg down and across your back and the other across your chest, with the tied-together leg cord on the opposite hip.

Sharps – Any decent knife can be used. You do not need a special 'survival' knife. You do need to make a decent sheath with which you can carry it. You can cut down a boot, punch a line of holes down three edges and then lace the edges together to make a pouch using just about any kind of cord or other lacing. The point of the knife will eventually cut through the lacing unless you put some type of hard barrier on the inside bottom. This can be a piece of tough plastic folded into a cup.

Just a few thoughts. Any questions, just post and I'll respond when I can. Oh, yeah. Sand. Good mortar sand. Lots of it. For lots of uses. Kind of like silicone, tie wire, duct tape and a good pocket knife. Get all you can now, for future use.

On to some specifics that I believe you are talking about.

I wear a very good Bullhide brand leather money belt. Has a good zipper, and since I also wear leather suspenders, the extra weight is not a problem. I can carry US

quarter-size coins and smaller, properly folded US bank notes, a small handcuff key, a very slim blade, folded-up laminated information card.

There are other types of money belts, as well. Dressier ones, as well as lightweight fabrics like silk that go under your clothing and can take very lightweight items.

Ready Man is a website that carries several special wallet cards. These are thin, very stout metal cards about the thickness of a credit card. Not the thick 'tool' cards. These are very thin, and laser-cut items. One is a lock pick set. Another is a wilderness survival kit, a third is a fishing kit, and a fourth an AR-15 set of tools.

I also have the fold-up knives that go in a wallet, as well. About the thickness of three or four credit cards together. Very good blades on the ones I have.

I am not overly fond of the other gimmick knives, such as the coin and key knives. They are obviously knives. They might be overlooked, but if not, it makes it look like you are trying to get a knife past security. Which, of course, you are. I believe it is better to have something that not only does not look like a knife, but does not have a 'blade', but can be used as an effective knife. You mentioned the sharpened-edge credit card. They work nicely for a few uses. But can be re-sharpened easily. If discovered, it still looks bad, but not like an actual knife, I think. And if you have a bit of warning you will be searched, you can dull up the sharpened edge so it becomes just an old credit card.

Some other things that can be sharpened ahead of time, or not until needed, are drafting tools. Steel triangles, drafting compass, steel ruler, and a couple of other things in a small drafting kit.

One of the main things I like to have is some 'get out of jail free' assets. Some cash, of course. And I do carry gold and silver coins in my money belt (and a few other places), but I am talking here about wearable assets. Real gold and silver items. 18 carat or above gold or sterling silver or above collar stays. Some 18-carat and some sterling silver cuff links and shirt studs. Jewelry chains that can be cut and rejoined a few links at a time. An extra wedding band. All sorts of other men's and women's jewelry, simple designs, that can be easily divided into useful quantities of gold and silver, but have no real value, other than the precious metals, in design work or anything.

Rings. Bracelets. Money clips. Toothpicks. Pretty much anything you want if you talk to a discrete jewelry maker, or can go online to order things safely.

There are solid gold and/or sterling silver pens and pencil sets. Cigarette and cigar cases. Flasks.

More practical tools. You mentioned paracord shoe laces. Yes, slow to deploy the cord, and it leaves your shoes/boots untied for the most part. Consider pulling a couple or more of the inner strands out, and work a diamond-coated string saw inside. If needed, you pull the wire saw and other inner strands and put the outer sheath back in your boots so you can tie them again.

And several things can be put inside a length of paracord, especially 750 and 950 versions. Small handcuff keys and a diamond-coated string saw as mentioned. Some Kevlar cord instead of the regular inner strand. The Kevlar is much stronger and can be used as a very effective garrote when end pieces are added.

Start using a walking stick. Stay away from those with blades in them. I would suggest to not even get any of the gimmick types, with liquor flasks inside. Depending on where you are, one of the hiking types with some survival features might or might not get you in trouble.

Start wearing hats (as opposed to caps). Good ones. Those with linings can be used to conceal a few lightweight, thin items. Those with a wide sweatband can conceal a flexible item, such as a diamond-coated string saw, flexible blade, currency, handcuff key, etc. If the hat band is wide, it can conceal similar things.

Good gloves can often be modified to take an item or two between the outer layer and the lining. Soft stuff that will not imprint or interfere with wearing the glove.

Elastic or lace-on armbands and/or thigh bands with pockets or pouches can be worn under one's clothing to carry a few things. Sometimes the whole band can be a pouch if the material is folded over, and sewn along the top edge, leaving a few openings to access the interior.

Either a band similar to those above or a more traditional ankle holster/pouch can carry a few things.

Research role camouflage. How to blend in with others in a given area. Sometimes hiding in plain sight is better than to try and hide from view. It often does not take very much to make yourself look like you are either just one of the others in the area or look like you have every right to be there, such as a workman, that people tend to ignore.

One of the items that can make things easier and safer if trying to avoid detection is to have a small extendible spy mirror. A means to look around corners, or over things without exposing yourself. And much less bulky than all but the smallest of periscopes.

The following list was developed specifically for avoiding AI-assisted surveillance, but much of it applies to many other aspects of personal security.

AI Defenses

- 1) Stock up on theatrical makeup. May need to fool facial recognition software.
- 2) Have some alternative theatrical face masks made for the same reason.
- 3) Have some powerful 1,000+ lumen flashlights to blind sensors.
- 4) Ditto high-power lasers and audio generators.
- 5) Get a few large dome-type umbrellas and line them inside with space blanket material to hide and mask your face to make identification more difficult.
- 6) Have several more space blankets cut in various shapes for decoys.
- 7) Have human-shaped manikins with surface material that can be heated to look like a human form for diversions.
- 8) Get a .338 Lapua or .408 Cheytac rifle for anti-drone/anti-AI device destruction.
- 9) Keep up with the designs of new military and police drones and mobile AI devices so you can figure out vulnerabilities.
- 10) Invest in a lot of helium-capable balloons, helium, and light bank line to put up 'barrage balloons' to keep flying AIs/drones from close-range observation distances.
- 11) Keep self-activating ice packs handy to break up the heat signature when out and about and under surveillance.
- 12) Have heat and cooling sources in the home to emulate humans, and to mask humans from AI-controlled surveillance.

- 13) Monitor as many forms of local communication as you can to get reports of actions taking place around the area so you have time to prepare to hide or evade.
- 14) Be prepared to alter your movement patterns to change the way you walk and move.
- 15) Get some walking aids, especially walking sticks, to help in the above, and as role camouflage.
- 16) Read John T. Molloy's *Dress For Success* books to learn about how people perceive people, which are some of the same things that AI surveillance considers when tracking people.
- 17) Learn your AO so you will know useful places to hide from AI-based surveillance, places to ambush drones, and AI machines.
- 18) Create alternative personalities using some of the above techniques, with good locations to change from one to another.
- 19) Get the best observation and monitoring equipment you can to test your defensive actions as well as you can. They will not be as good as what the owners of AI have but will give you some idea if you are wasting your time.
- 20) Practice with a voice changer now so you can use it in the future when it might be needed.
- 21) Practice using ciphers and codes to communicate, in case you need to keep information private in the future using alternative methods as well as current standard methods.
- 22) Do not use 'standard' methods of encoding, such as using the Bible or other common books as reference works to develop ciphers and codes. Computers can analyze books like that in seconds to minutes.
- 23) Always remember that you leave behind a clear trail visible to one or more of their sophisticated sensors, so you have to really think outside the box to defeat them or overcome the results of them locating you.
- 24) Remember that most (not all) visual and audio sensors can be blinded or masked. Even some higher-tech ones can be as well. So metallic paints, high-power sound systems and foam sprays, dry powders (flour, barite, bentonite), oily sprays, and such can be useful armaments against drones and some AI devices.
- 25) Remember π . If you can get a computer system to start calculating π to a finite decimal point, that should either lock it up or keep it busy for a very long time. Or the old computer BASIC language routine 10 CLS 20 GOTO 10 which simply keeps looping through, keeping the screen clear until interrupted, which is easier to stop than the π routine. (Just kidding. Sort of.)
- 26) Fog machines, water misters, and some other theatrical and agricultural devices can help deter some sensors and AI devices, but usually only partially.

- 27) Though some can fly, very few drones and AI units can swim. Water can be your friend. Keep that in mind.
- 28) If you can get a device trapped, burning bars can quickly disable them, even if lightly armored.
- 29) Try to have several different decoy systems available, since any one device may have multiple sensor types and you may have to lay many different trails to confuse them.
- 30) Consider the mobility method of the device, if it is mobile, and determine a way to stop its movement.
- 31) Consider the type of fuel it uses and determine a way to make it lose fuel, use a great deal more than usual, or contaminate it. Ditto the type of engine and traction if applicable.
- 32) Prepare as many spider holes as possible that will counter known sensors. Have at least some that have escape routes through which you can get outside the range of the sensors long enough to change the look of whatever sensors are being used is monitoring.
- 33) Radio jammers that would be effective on police/military drones and mobile AI equipment are hard to come by and of limited range. But if you know someone that can build one, that is good. But you will only get one use out of it, hopefully, that will be enough to let you make a permanent getaway.
- 34) As 'smart' as AI can be, it currently and into the near future, is still stupid compared to humans and cannot reason beyond a certain set of parameters programmed into it. If you can do the really unexpected, you have a better chance of evading them, if they are one of the predictive activity types. Basic tracking devices are more difficult to evade.
- 35) Always have a heavy hammer handy.

A few expedient things that can be used as weapons as-is, or turned into weapons with a bit of work. Here creativity becomes the watch word. Most things can be used as a weapon, many that are innocuous enough to not get you in trouble if you carry them. A good hiking staff or walking stick, as mentioned, to a roll of dimes in a fist, to keys held through the fingers, and on and on and on. Any search on the internet for expedient weapons will find all kinds of examples. One particular one that I like is not an offensive weapon. It is pretty much defensive. That is a small, lightly weighted throw net. It can be carried in a pocket ready to deploy, or even in the hand, and with a flick of the arm and wrist, (after lots of practice) it can entangle an aggressor enough, for long enough, to do harm to them if required, or two get away.

Some links to sites that might be of interest:

Readyman:

<https://www.readyman.com/collections/survival-cards>

Shomer Tek:

<http://www.shomer-tec.com/departments/urban-survival-tools-37.cfm>

Spy Goodies:

<http://www.spygoodies.com/>

Spy Gadgets:

<https://www.spygadgets.com/>

Hike Pro:

<http://hikepro.net/Products/Security.html>

Let me know if you have more questions or would like to discuss the subject further.

Urban Gray Man

I would start with appropriate footwear. Not your standard wingtips. Get a nice pair of leather dress boots with light dress Vibram soles. I would use a good leather money belt to carry some cash, gold and silver coins, handcuff key, and various other things. I would have suspender buttons added to the pants and wear all-leather suspenders. With both a belt and suspenders, one can be removed and used for other purposes.

I would wear lightweight wool suits in both summer and winter, with silk long johns in the winter. For an overcoat, I would use a dressy leather safari jacket. And I would wear a fairly wide-brim snap-brim fedora for head protection. Insulated dress gloves, ear warmers, and silk scarf with the jacket for winter.

I would use a walking stick all the time, one with a heavy brass ball head, and learn how to use it effectively as a weapon.

I would carry a nice steel ribbed silk Japanese fan in the inside breast pocket of my suit jacket for use as a weapon.

If I needed to carry a laptop I would get an oversize leather bag for it, and add a ballistic panel. If no computer, then a quality leather messenger bag or attaché, also with a ballistic panel. In these cases, I would carry some of the above list of EDC carry items in the bag, while keeping the rest on or about my person.k

Special aspects for being a gray woman

Just as it is for men, taking on the persona of a gray woman can have many beneficial aspects not only during various types of disasters and their aftermath, but during ordinary daily life now.

We live in some trying times, and they can be even more trying in many ways for women. They live with a set of inherent dangers with which very few men must cope.

While it is not always the case, women tend to be of smaller stature than most men, be a bit weaker than most men, are subject to several threats that few men are subject, and tend to live with certain societal expectations that, right or wrong, exist.

These are just a few of the reasons, and complicating factors, that apply to a woman that wishes to take on a gray persona while in public. Just exactly what is a 'gray persona'?

Well, for men it is essentially appearing and acting in certain ways that do not bring any attention toward oneself. Blending in. Not standing out. Not being memorable. Looking like everyone else. Or looking like part of the background that should be in that particular place at that particular time.

And it is the same for women, mostly. However, there are some aspects that are different for women. Some in just how achieving the goals can be done, and some differences in what is gray for a woman versus what is gray for a man.

Unlike many animal species, and a few exceptions in our own species, it is the female that tends to be the more showy of the two genders. It is the way we evolved. And there are plenty of exceptions to that genetic rule.

Unless known to be a life-and-death situation, most women will still want to be seen as a woman, and not masquerade as a man. It can be done, for short periods, in some circumstances. It is not as easy or effective as it is in books, television, and movies.

However, the propensity of women wanting to look like a woman, and not just look like a woman, but one that looks nice, even if not trying to look glamorous, which does kind of defeat the gray woman goal.

And the thing about it, under normal everyday circumstances, and even in some post disaster circumstances, if you look like a woman, but do not look glamorous, but do look rather hedious, you will stand out. Which is counter to the gray woman goal.

What this means is that to appear as a gray woman, you must look like a woman, not like you are trying to dress down or dress up, but dress like the overwhelming majority of other women that you will be around.

It is the same as a man that is dressed like a laborer will look very out of place downtown among dozens of men in suits and ties, and a man in a suit and tie out digging a ditch. A woman dressed in evening wear in a grocery store will stand out as much as a woman in gardening shorts, gardening gloves, her hair pulled back in a pony tail pulled through a baseball hat at a formal dinner.

Now, just like men, you must work with what you have. To a degree. Do not attempt to look really ugly. You will stand out. Do not try to look like the queen of the ball. You will stand out. Look nice, the same way the other women look nice.

You may need to push it a bit, in wearing clothing in which you can maneuver, run, and fight if need be. However, with the available styles not, other than a formal ball, and you are not a super-celebrity type, there is clothing that will look appropriate that you can do what you need to do while wearing.

There seem, at least to me, to be quite a few options in women's clothing that can be worn that meet the requirement to wear more subdued colors, earth tones, and comfortable clothing, easy to move in. Keep it in mind whenever you are shopping for additional clothing, and clothing for any girls and young women that will need to consider dressing the same way at some point.

Then the rest of the gray woman effect comes through demeanor, approach, accessories, other appearance factors besides clothing and makeup, and a few more things that, like everything else prepping, can be situational.

Maintaining situational awareness without being obvious about it, as well as operational security, are mostly the same as men. Women do need to be careful about meeting a man's eyes for more than a moment. You will want to meet them at times, but if you hold the look very long, the overwhelming number of males are going to take it as a sign of interest. Which you do not want. You want the person to know you saw them, so they are less likely to think they can approach you unnoticed, but it will not be the reason they approach you.

While keeping an eye out by moving the eyes constantly, or moving the head constantly, will help you maintain situational awareness, it can be seen as a sign of nervousness, fear, an indication of a plan to do something, and just simply bring unwanted attention.

Very few men do it, and almost no women. So, learn to observe without being observed. Male spies can do it, even if most men cannot do it any more than most women. Women can learn, which is what needs to be done.

The best way to learn is to start doing both, now, all the time, even within your own home.

Body posture and movement, as well as a woman's walking characteristics, tend to be quite different from men's. And men and women both tend to see and understand what they are. So, you cannot be totally counter to what is natural, but it is best to keep all of the movements, and the posture close to neutral for being a woman.

Do not sway your hips when walking. This can be difficult in high heels, so shorter heels would be a better choice, while still blending in with the rest of the women wearing heels.

Do not do the exaggerated crossing-the-centerline-of-your-body foot placement. Runway models, and women wanting to be looked at do this. It helps sway the hips, and it also brings attention to the woman's legs, another goal of women wanting to be noticed.

Other things, such as flipping one's long hair with a hand, or short hair with a toss of the head, bring attention. Checking earrings to make sure they are still secure, lifting a leg to adjust a shoe, and checking appearance in mirrors in an area are all things that women do that, intended or not, cause people, especially men, to look their way, if the male catches even a tiny bit of it from the corner of their eye.

It can and will be difficult to suppress these actions when you want to be full gray woman, so you will need to practice. Preferably with someone you trust that knows what it is you are trying to do and will be truthful with you about how well you are doing.

Another aspect is wearing scents of various kinds. From body wash to powder to shampoo to conditioner to perfume, there are versions that are very noticeable to other women, some to other men, and some to both. If they are noticeable then they will be at least somewhat memorable. Another no-no for a gray woman.

That is not to say you must be totally without any kind of scent, but keep it generic and very subdued. Especially if more than one type is being used, such as a shampoo, a body wash, and a perfume. Even if all three are very light scents, the combination can be noticeable. Again, ask someone else you trust their opinion.

Now, though not all women do this, there are many that tend to touch other people. Not hugs, though that applies when in excess, but the touch of a hand on a forearm or upper arm. Usually not a shoulder, though. Touching a man's chest is like the too-long-meeting-of-the-eyes. It brings unwanted attention and expectation. Besides which, depending on the people involved it can elicit elements of jealousy from other women, which you do not want. Unless you need to create a distraction. Different subject, however.

And the one that is likely to cause me to be vilified somewhat. Talking. Women tend to chat. With other women. They will often not say too much when they are in a group with men, but nowadays even then many women will interject a comment. Or two. Or...

Anyway, do not be silent. That, too, is unusual unless you are that way all the time and everyone around you knows that. Otherwise, join in conversations, quietly, softly, making conversation, but do not express strong opinions, raise your voice, or try to make a point, no matter how justified. If you are in gray woman mode it is simply not the time. Find another venue for that.

Again, a rather fine line to walk at times, but women have been doing it since time immemorial, when they had to in order to protect themselves and their children.

And speaking of walking, a woman can appear as a gray woman and not stand out, when she is part of a group or within a group. It is nearly impossible when alone. You will need to walk another fine line of not appearing too capable to presenting a threatening appearance, as that could bring authorities down on you in many situations, and will often trigger some men to make the attempt to prove that you are not a threat to them, especially if you are.

If at all possible, if you will be away from safety, and must be walking, try to do so with a small group of other women, gray women or not. Keep conversation low and innocuous. Chuckle, but try not to wind up in a belly laugh. Maintain situational awareness, again, as always, trying to look like you are not doing that, but just keeping a casual eye out.

If the other women are of like mind, hopefully, you will have been able to have made a plan in case something does happen.

Try to make sure that you always have any feminine hygiene products that may even remotely be needed, to the point of having extra for any other women in your party. You do not want to be limited in any way as to the options open to you if evasive action, hiding out, or other activities must be done where the lack could create a problem over a period of time.

Try to get all the sleep you possibly can. Restful sleep, not just time lying down. The lack of sleep is one of the things that cause people, men and women both, to make mistakes of many different kinds. If you are needing to be in gray woman mode, you need to be rested so you can have your full senses available to you, at a moment's notice.

Another thing that can be deadly is not being aware. This is more than just situational awareness. Do not allow yourself to become distracted. If out and about, and not in a known safe location, do not be on the phone, either talking or texting, watching videos, or working apps, unless it is critical to your safety at the moment. Otherwise, it will jeopardize your safety to a huge degree. When you are in a safe place watch a few of the youtube videos of people being distracted by their phones and see what happens to them.

I still have not been up to doing an article the way I intend, but here are a few things I would like to inject now, not having read much of the current two or three urban survival threads, I am ashamed to say. They will be included in the article, but I thought some might like to think about them now.

- 1) There are multiple aspects and approaches to Urban Survival.
- 2) There are multiple definitions even to what 'Urban' is, making it very easy to talk apples and oranges, with nothing ever matching up on the actual same subject that is one definition versus what is another definition.
- 3) There are different approaches that can be taken, depending on individual circumstances.
- 4) There are a huge number of nuances that will influence every aspect of survival for everyone, not just preppers.
- 5) And there are things that cannot be planned for specifically, but with flexibility in plans and having multiple options can be dealt with successfully.

Some of the elements that can be in the various definitions of 'Urban' that are being discussed, often as the same thing, when there can be huge differences in what will work and will not, what will happen and will not, whether survival is even possible or not, resource availability or lack there-of, population density, likely die-off rates, and several more.

Are we talking urban as in:

- 1) Megalopolis
- 2) Major City
- 3) Medium City

And within the above:

- 1) Central Business District (CBD)
- 2) Inner City
- 3) Industrial areas
- 4) Commercial areas
- 5) Mid-Town Residential areas
- 6) High-End Estate areas
- 7) White Collar Residential areas
- 8) Inner Suburbs/Suburban areas
- 9) Outer Suburbs and areas

- 10) Extended Suburbia and Suburban areas
- 11) Urbanized/Suburban Rural areas
- 12) Bedroom Community areas in close association
- 13) Or a combination of two or more of them in any given conversation or comment?

Also, there are some factors that while tightly associated now, might be, and I think will be, needed to be looked at separately, although still with some association. If that makes sense. (I am getting tired and am hurting. Been some long days lately.)

As in:

- 1) The population density of the various areas.
- 2) The financial situations of the population within the various areas.
- 3) The ethnic make-up of the population within the various areas.
- 4) The Socio/Political make-up of the population within the various areas.
- 5) The level of control of the government system and agencies within the various areas.
- 6) The educational level of the population within the various areas.
- 7) The individual and collective skill sets and skill set levels of the population of the various areas.

Now, this is where I take a rather different view, in some ways, of urban survival in all its forms than most others. I also consider urban areas in terms of actual terrain, with the human element somewhat peripheral, though still in mind, but primarily in seven different stages.

- 1) Current, pre-event
- 2) During minor to moderate events
- 3) During moderate to major events
- 4) During catastrophic events
- 5) Post-minor to moderate events
- 6) Post-moderate to major events
- 7) Post-catastrophic events

I do not really see all that many special survival techniques beyond trying to maintain the best and generally safe lifestyle possible during the first two stages and into the third, as being particularly pertinent to, quote, "Urban Survival". These are basically general life strategies in modern society.

However, going into "Urban Survival" as events become major events, then normal

everyday techniques will not be adequate. Which is what I consider "Urban Survival" discussions to be about.

Now, some agree and some do not, but I am of the belief that once things become major, there will be, first an exodus of those that can, an attempted exodus by many more that will not be successful, and a huge group of people that will not even try to leave. And of the last two groups, as the severity of the event increases up to catastrophic levels, if it does, then population decline within many of the Urban Areas I described will take place fairly rapidly, and then very rapidly.

Most of the reasons are not that important, except for some that have to do with biological contamination. The main thing will be that as the population density in various areas drops to less than 50% in some, going down from there as the most densely populated areas beforehand lose the largest percentages, up to 90%, and I think in many instances of the Central Business District (CBD), Inner City areas, Industrial areas, and probably Commercial areas, will approach or exceed 98% die-off or exodus.

Now, in these areas, I believe, when the population has fallen that much, and during that process, the areas have been stripped of common-knowledge resources, that what was once an Urban City now becomes simply a set of terrain features that must be dealt with in terms of long-term survival just like all the other natural terrain features that preppers deal with.

With only a tiny population left, which, with well-equipped and highly observant and cautious preppers having kept low with adequate supplies, can now, still with huge reserves of their own, can now begin to use the terrain to achieve long-term, self-sufficient lives if they so choose.

All the resource potential is there, just like it is everywhere else. The problem with using it has been the people that would make it impossible to do safely, as has been pointed out.

There may not be huge meadows, or forests, or established farms already in existence, but even in the heart of New York City, there are open areas in which things grow well. There are other parks, open areas, and areas where buildings have been demolished to allow new construction. Without the former residents getting in the way, interfering, and trying to take the bounty produced, that land will sustain enough people to have a viable population that can work together to produce what is needed,

and then protect it as knowledge gets out that they are successfully surviving in what most believe to be totally inhospitable areas.

Look at Yellowstone Park. Life of many kinds, including human, thrives there. And there are large numbers of fairly large, highly toxic places in the park, just as there will be in 'abandoned' urban areas. Wild animals will make a comeback. And until all zoo, aquarium, reptile house, exotic animal park, and other animals in other currently controlled facilities are eaten or destroyed, there will be meat available.

And knowing how well many animals can adapt, I am not convinced that every lion, tiger, leopard, wolf, hyena, and even hippo, rhino, and elephant will be destroyed. I do think enough will survive to breed in many places. And that includes non-predator herbivores that those predators that do survive and breed will prey upon, as well as the local human population unless great care is taken.

But as has been pointed out, it will take some special skills and preparations and planning to get through that time frame from more or less normal times to the die-off stages that will allow the long-term success of a prepper community to organize.

One of the things that can make it difficult for some, is an advantage that those that know and understand them can use to stay hidden and self-sufficient long enough.

Not to say that everyone that attempts it would make it. I just believe that most that do the majority of the right things will make it.

Turned out longer and more involved than I intended.

As always, I hope people will think things through with an open mind, push the envelope a bit, and think outside that box that so many are in.

And it is all just my opinion.

Jerry D Young