

# SPRINGLAKE PREPAREDNESS

PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE

ome of the things I write about may seem far-fetched. Okay, I get that. Some scenarios may seem unlikely, but I'm not prepared to claim; "that will never happen." The US military has a command which has existed under many labels for several decades, all boiled down to "*war plans.*" As you no-doubt know, our country has been caught by surprise on occasion.



Learning from history, the US military set up a command whose job is to prepare for the **unlikely**, no matter how ridiculous it may seem. The US military has plans to respond to an invasion by Canada. Will that ever happen? Very unlikely, right? But if it does happen, we have a plan. I've learned we also have plans for dealing with an extra-terrestrial alien invasion and a Zombie Apocalypse (no kidding).\* One of the criticisms of the *September 11<sup>th</sup> Commission* was the government's inability to think outside the box. So, they began thinking outside of the box.

The most likely scenarios we Scappooseians face are the weather, or other natural events, such as earthquakes, flooding, fires, volcanoes, solar flares, etc. For the majority of these kinds of events, long term evacuation is not likely. Most evacuations are relatively brief events, until the danger passes and it's safe to go home. Typically folks are invited to stay in emergency shelters such as schools, churches, public buildings, etc., close to home. We Springlakers have Fred Winter Hall as a limited option.



While sheltered you'll likely be in a safe, warm place with water, plumbing, food, albeit on a limited basis, and *INFORMATION*. City and county planners, and the American Red Cross are well trained and prepared to handle these types of events. Stay a night or two, get some sleep, know what's going on, get to know your neighbors on a more "personal" level, then go home and access any damage to your property.

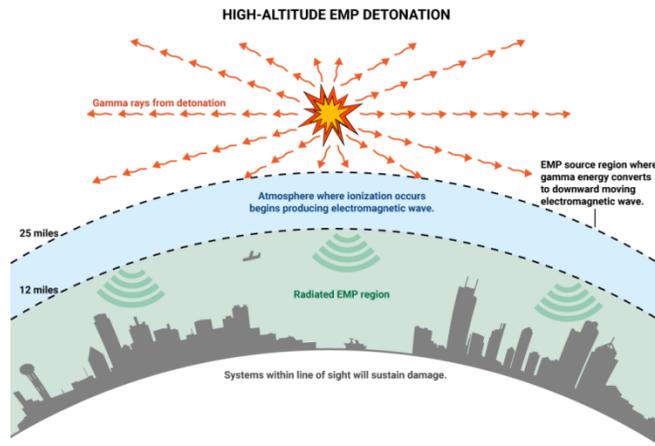
In researching “prepper” information I found that some say they are preparing for specific events, such as; economic collapse, nuclear war, biological warfare, pandemic, terrorism, civil war, floods, space alien invasion, societal collapse, and on-and-on. Some simply say they are preparing for the “*end of the world.*” I think that if the world is truly going to end, **ain’t nobody gonna survive THAT!** The best way to prepare for that is on your knees. Besides, where are you going to bug-out to? I evaluate what they say and pick up useful data where I can get it, but I believe in preparing for the unknown. Sure all of those events could come to pass, but if you’re focused on sealing your home in plastic sheeting and going through your day wearing a gas mask, that won’t help much in a flood.



**What bothers me the most?** My greatest fear is a total breakdown of our electric grid. That could occur due to a hostile attack by another country (EMP), solar flare, or act of terrorism.

A solar storm in 1859 (also known as the Carrington Event) was a powerful geomagnetic storm during a solar cycle. A solar coronal mass ejection (CME) hit Earth's magnetosphere and induced one of the largest geomagnetic storms on record, September 1–2, 1859. The US electrical infrastructure of that time was the telegraph system. Western Union. That was about it. The “storm” knocked out the telegraph system, melting copper transmission lines and solid brass telegraph keys. And that was a crude analog system, where the solar energy had 93 million miles to thin out. Imagine the damage to our modern, fragile electronic infrastructure from a focused storm from a near-by nuclear detonation.

Local grid interruptions have already happened on a limited scale. Some from an unknown, or undisclosed source and others by an intoxicated driver bumping into a utility pole. There is speculation some of those were test hacks by hostile nations, or terrorists, but there’s no way for the public to know for sure. While serving in the US Navy as an Aviation Weapon Specialist, I received training in nuclear weapons, including the use of electro-magnetic pulse: **\*\*E.M.P.** A nuclear EMP is caused by an *extremely high altitude* nuclear detonation, which causes no blast damage or radioactive fallout, but literally melts unshielded electronics, including virtually all electrical supply systems, electronic medical devices, consumer electronics, the vast majority of modern motor vehicles having electronic ignition systems, and the rest of the stuff we rely on every day, including pacemakers. Our nation could be virtually shut down by one or more such detonations, launched from cargo ships parked off the coasts, or the Gulf of Mexico. There are hostile countries who consider us enemies, and who have the capability to launch such an attack, **right now.** Most military hardware is shielded from an EMP, and there are some attempts to shield civilian electronics, but congress so far has scoffed at the notion.



Source: Congressional Commission to Assess the Threat of Electromagnetic Pulse to the United States of America

Graphic redesign by Geopolitical Futures

If that should happen, modern life as we know it ends immediately. Within the space of *one second*, we would suddenly find ourselves living in 19<sup>th</sup> century conditions. No modern food or fuel transportation, municipal systems offline. No telephone, no radio, no television, no modern communication including internet or transportation. Computers, including desktops, laptops, tablets will be dead. Airplanes will fall from the sky, and hospitals are unable to perform life saving medical procedures. No 9-1-1. We would literally be on our own, in conditions from the 1800's. Grocery stores would be emptied in a matter of hours. Municipal water systems except those which are gravity fed, shut down immediately. Pharmacy shelves empty in hours, with no resupply possible. No life sustaining medication refills. Estimates are for a **90% nationwide death rate** in the first few months following an EMP. If that should happen, we will likely see the very worst of human depravity among fellow citizens as they (we) become increasingly desperate to feed our families.



If that happens, I expect to be one of the 90% first year casualties. My life expectancy would be reduced to the length of time it takes me to use up my insulin supply in our refrigerator which quit running when the grid went down. It will take years to repair the damage.

That's my greatest fear, and preparation for that magnitude of disaster is difficult to comprehend. Steps can be taken to shield personal electronics, but without a network or infrastructure, it would only be of limited use. American citizens will need to learn a whole "new" way of life and skills long since obsolete in our modern world. Anyone know how to build and run a steam engine?

Sorry, I don't mean to startle anyone, but we can't ignore the dangers facing our nation in the modern world just because they make us uncomfortable.

Ron

\* *"In an unclassified document titled "CONOP 8888," officials from U.S. Strategic Command used the specter of a planet-wide attack by the walking dead as a training template for how to plan for real-life, large-scale operations, emergencies and catastrophes."* OK, so it's a training exercise, but it highlights the importance of thinking outside the box and preparing for the unknown, no matter how unlikely.

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/05/16/politics/pentagon-zombie-apocalypse/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CONOP\\_8888](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CONOP_8888)

\*\* <http://www.onesecondafter.com/aboutemp.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electromagnetic\\_pulse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electromagnetic_pulse)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar\\_storm\\_of\\_1859](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_storm_of_1859)

For reading on this subject, I recommend the novel; *"One Second After."* The author, William Forstchen, is an expert in EMP research and has testified before congress on its dangers. Available on Amazon.

On NETFLIX is a presentation of the 2006 television series, "Jericho," which deals with many aspects of preparedness, bugging out, bugging in, and on a limited basis, EMP.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jericho\\_\(2006\\_TV\\_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jericho_(2006_TV_series))