



**GRID DOWN**  
CONSULTING

# GRID DOWN: DEATH OF A NATION

The Psychology Behind Human Desperation,  
Starvation, and Living Without Rule-of-Law  
in a Prolonged Grid Down Scenario

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# Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	II
INTRODUCTION.....	1
UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT .....	7
Factor #1 – Human Desperation.....	8
Factor # 2 - Starvation.....	10
Factor # 3 – Living Without-Rule-of-Law .....	16
CONCLUSION .....	23
THOUGHT EXERCISES.....	27
Feeding the Troops: A Mental Exercise .....	27
Feeding the Troops: By the Numbers.....	30
Feeding the Troops: The Wrong Answer to a Tough Problem - Partnership.....	31
A Thought Exercise for Civilian Emergency Planners:.....	36
How Would a Grid-Down Scenario Affect You Personally?.....	38
MAJOR POINTS TO CONSIDER.....	47
APPENDIX.....	49
Polling Example:.....	49
BIO.....	50
Jonathan Hollerman.....	50
ENDNOTES .....	51

# Introduction



In the aftermath of a long-term grid-down scenario brought on by an EMP attack, large CME, a cyber attack that destroys massive amounts of critical hardware, or a large-scale physical attack against our nation's HV transformers - how would the American people and the US military respond? When this question is asked, it is typically answered with ideas and platitudes that end in catch-phrases and include words such as boot-straps and teamwork. The Lloyd's of London Report from 2013 titled, *Solar Storm Risk to the North American Electric Grid* <sup>1</sup> described the aftermath of a worst-case scenario where the electric grid and other critical infrastructure was destroyed by a Carrington-level solar storm as follows:

"The absence of such fundamental services could lead to major and widespread social unrest, riots and theft with ramifications for the insurance industry and society in general."

"Social unrest, riots, and thefts..." Really Lloyd's? A year without electricity and those are the best descriptions you can come up with? I regularly read reports, plans, and recommendations regarding grid down events and how to plan for them. Almost never, have I read a report that discusses starvation or accurately portrays what life will look like in a grid down event and what kind of psychological effects it will have on every living person. I will strive to do so in this paper.

Before we begin, a few parameters:

1. This paper is strictly written from the perspective of a long-term, grid-down scenario.
2. This does not apply to grid down events that can be resolved in less than a week or two.
3. This is written from the perspective that the attack is sudden and no last-second planning was available.
4. This is written to our current position of readiness, and not taking into account a hardened grid in the future.

Keeping those parameters in mind, this paper is going to primarily focus on three significant factors that are regularly overlooked when discussing or planning for the aftermath of a long-term grid-down event brought on by a HEMP (High Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse) attack, a massive CME (Coronal Mass Ejection), or catastrophic physical or cyber-attack that destroys electrical hardware and critical infrastructure.

Understanding the full psychological impact these three factors will have on civilian and military personnel will directly correspond to whether or not an emergency plan of action will be successful.

"Almost never, have I read a report that discusses starvation or accurately portrays what life will look like in a grid down event..."



## The Three Factors:

1

### Human Desperation

A feeling of complete hopelessness and a life out of control. It's a negative psychological response to living in a horrific social [dis]order that is completely unrecognizable to a person's previous way of life and will likely prove to be unmanageable for the average person.

2

### Starvation

This does not include food deprivation, but true starvation on a scale that has never been seen in this nation. After a short time, civilians and military alike could go days and possibly weeks without a **single** substantial meal. The psychological and mental effects this will have on the US population is drastically ignored in most emergency planning.

3

### Living Without Rule-Of-Law (WROL)

Living in an environment where there is no rule of law other than self-regulation will quickly lead to horrible atrocities not seen since the 12th century. Witnessing these events will be traumatic to most individuals.

All three of these factors can manifest themselves in varying levels of severity. Also, throughout history, all three rarely occur at the same time. In fact, I'm not sure you could point to a single instance in recent world history where all three of these factors came into play simultaneously, for an

extended period of time, while also at the highest levels of severity. Many of the historical records of the atrocities committed (when you combine just one or two of these factors) have been cleansed and removed from our history books including the atrocities committed during the fall of Nanking to Japanese forces, the stories of how the Russian's dealt with the Germans towards the end of WWII, stories from the Great Chinese Famine, and many other horrific atrocities in world history that go largely ignored. The great World Wars are covered in school and any instances of evil deeds committed by Americans are usually discussed at length. But most people today don't realize that death by hunger and starvation has killed nearly a hundred times more people in the last two centuries than all the World Wars combined<sup>2</sup>. Most professors and teachers skip over the horrible atrocities that mankind commits against each other when people go hungry. Many youths and college students are now considered too emotionally fragile to know the truth about humanity's depravity throughout the ages. It's why, shortly after 9/11, the major TV and news networks have decided to stop showing any videos of the tragedies that happened during the attack<sup>3</sup>. Unfortunately, this type of historical cleansing only reinforces the current and popular worldview than mankind is essentially "good and benevolent" by human nature. Showing people, the dirtiest and darkest parts of world history would be a stark reminder to the *Banality of Evil* <sup>4</sup> and the average person's ability to commit atrocities against one another when placed in the right (or wrong) circumstances.





Many Americans today believe modern humanity has evolved past the dark Viking Days where life was “survival of the fittest.” Typically, a person only knows what they have experienced throughout their life. It’s one thing to read about a terrible scenario in world history, it’s a totally different thing to have lived through it or experienced it firsthand. Claims of growing up “poor” in America are relative by

defeat of ISIS in Syria could possibly reinforce that realization. If the remnants of ISIS were to gain the knowledge, skills, or equipment on how to destroy or severely damage our electric grid, does any legitimate security analyst think they wouldn’t take the opportunity of implementing it? It would be a slow and painful death to the country they consider *The Great Satan*.

**The assumption that things will continue to function as before the crisis began is called normalcy bias, and it is one of the biggest reasons why most emergency plans will fail in spectacular fashion in a grid down event.**

nature. Poor in America is usually “well-off” by most other world standards. Our combined life experience in America is living in the greatest and richest country in the world overseen by a justice and legal system based on Judeo-Christian values. Most Americans live their lives based on similar codes of morality regardless of their religious affiliation.

Unknown to most of its citizens, America is one extreme catalyst away from a horrific, overnight return to “survival of the fittest” as a way of life. Destroying the national electric grid in our country and thrusting our technology-dependent culture and infrastructure back into the stone age will certainly achieve that end. A total collapse may not happen in the first week, but as people begin to go hungry and eventually starve to death due to broken food distribution networks and no interstate trucking, a long-term grid-down event in America will bring death, chaos, and unbelievable atrocities. As discussed in a recent Congressional EMP Commission Report<sup>5</sup>, this is also the very reason why some of our country’s worst ideological enemies are choosing to focus their war doctrine on destroying our electric grid instead of fighting a conventional war with American Forces. Because of modern technological advances on the battlefield, most 3rd world countries or terrorist organizations are realizing that conventional warfare against America is a losing, long-term strategy. The recent

The Congressional EMP Commission has suggested that as many as ninety percent of Americans would die within the first year after the American electric grid came down<sup>6</sup>. While their assessment may be accurate, they haven’t done a very good job of explaining why or how this would happen. It’s not entirely clear whether they fully understand it themselves. Ninety percent of Americans dying is such a staggering percentage of our population, it’s hard to fathom. If those percentages held up, the death toll would be higher than all the lives lost in World War I and World War II combined. Insinuating that between 200-300 million people will die in a single year, without any sort of explanation... it makes it very easy for the naysayers to just roll their eyes, dismiss the idea, or claim it’s just fearmongering. They can get away with dismissing it because today’s growing secular-humanist world view and moral relativism will agree with them. Those worldviews largely contend that mankind is generally “good”. Most people believe that America is immune to losing that many people in such a horrific way. “It could never happen here! America is different!” They will say. They are mistaken. It is vital that the military, government, emergency planners, and public at large understand the threat of a long-term grid-down event and fully realize the ramifications of living in an environment dominated by Human Desperation, Starvation, and living WROL.



Most emergency planners and preparedness experts, some with hundreds of thousands of YouTube followers and the massive Emergency Management companies with millions of dollars in government contracts - they often don't have the life experience necessary to understand the various threats we will face in a long-term grid-down scenario. The post-grid environment will be such a radical departure from even the worst-case disaster they have ever prepared for or assisted in during natural disaster relief efforts. Every report or plan I've read requires and depends on electricity in some form, communication networks, and "all-hands-on-deck" to implement a proper pre-planned response. This applies to the most plans from politicians, some military brass, security analysts, civilian "prepping" experts, and consulting firms hired to strategize this scenario. Almost to the last, these experts are all average Americans whose only life experience is growing up and living in the richest country in the world with every creature comfort instantly available at their fingertips. Their life has never involved witnessing, understanding, or dealing with true hunger, starvation, desperation, or societies with no law and order governing the populace. Most importantly, most have obviously never performed any research into the psychology behind human desperation and starvation.



It is evident to me that most of these experts must assume that, we Americans, are somehow special and different (or better) than the other humans we share this planet with. In truth, our current, civilized society is only a byproduct of millions of laws governing every aspect of human conduct and the rapid enforcement mechanisms (policing and court system) in place to deal with offenders. The citizens that don't play by the rules are removed from society and sent to prison. Because of this orderly society we've all participated in for the past 200 years, most today believe that human nature is generally "good" and "orderly" instead of the harsh truth of an environment they've never experienced where desperate, hungry people, with no lawful oversight will commit horrific atrocities to obtain food for their starving family members. While



it may take weeks or months to completely fall apart, the atrocities will escalate the further you get from Day Zero after the grid goes down.

The words in the previous paragraphs may sound harsh and disparaging to those that may disagree with these predictions. They are not. I believe that every person I have met in the emergency planning and preparedness industry has had true and honorable intentions. They are sincerely trying to come up with a game plan to prevent or respond to a horrific scenario that is almost impossible to wrap your brain around.

Most Emergency Response Planners erroneously use their previous experience dealing with natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina as a launching point for their emergency response to a grid down scenario. Dealing with a severe, but localized, natural disaster like Hurricane Katrina, where you have entire federal agencies, the national guard, millions of volunteers, metric tons of civilian food and water donations, a functioning interstate trucking system, unlimited federal funds and the full weight and ingenuity of the American populace working together to find a solution and provide assistance to those in need. These emergency response plans have ZERO BASIS IN REALITY for performing the same tasks in a world without electricity! Every aspect of human life today, and by default, every aspect of emergency response is run by electricity. Nearly every aspect of State, Federal, and Military emergency response agencies are run by and wholly reliant on electricity. Their plans simply will not work without electricity, open lines of communication, and coordinating relief from outside organizations. The long-term Plan of Action reports and recommendations, the ones I've seen, are generally written with logistical holes so massive you could drive a Mack truck through them.

Typically, both civilian first-responders and military planners responding to a grid down event strictly focus on the first week or two after the event. It is understandable why they do so as it is the easiest timeframe in a grid down scenario to comprehend and plan for. However, they are likely missing the forest for the trees. If pressed, most planners will admit that "things" will likely get "very bad" if the grid stays down for an extended period. But typically, they'll quickly pull back and refuse to do anything more than acknowledge the presence of a non-specific, future potential chaos. They'll say things like, "We don't want to fear-monger" or "Let's focus on the factors we can control." As a result, they make plans and strategies based on today's current thought patterns and social norms. They make broad assumptions that the people in their Action Plan are going to continue to act, think, react, and function just like they do today and exactly how they always reacted to other emergencies in our nation's past. You can't fault them, because the same has always been true throughout history.

The assumption that things will continue to function as before the crisis began is called normalcy bias, and it is one of the biggest reasons why most emergency plans will fail in spectacular fashion in a grid down event.

The assumption that things will continue to function as before the crisis began is called normalcy bias, and it is one of the biggest reasons why most emergency plans will fail in spectacular fashion in a grid down event. Per Wikipedia<sup>7</sup> —

**"Normalcy bias**, or normality bias, is a belief people hold when considering the possibility of a disaster. It causes people to underestimate both the likelihood of a disaster and its possible effects, because people believe that things will always function the way things normally have functioned... normalcy bias can manifest itself in various disasters, ranging from





car crashes to world-historical events. It is hypothesized that the normalcy bias may be caused by the way the brain processes new information. Stress slows information processing, and when the brain cannot find an acceptable response to a situation, it fixates on a single and sometimes default solution. This single resolution can result in unnecessary injury or death in disaster situations. The lack of preparation for disasters often leads to inadequate shelter, supplies, and evacuation plans. Thus, normalcy bias can cause people to drastically underestimate the effects of the disaster and assume that everything will be all right."

One obvious example of normalcy bias I see is that the First Responder and military plans don't take into consideration that a large majority of their forces may refuse to show up for work or abandon their military post in the chaos. How will their plans function with only fifty percent of their manpower in place? What if after six months, you only retain twenty percent of your manpower or less? The real problem is a lack of imagination and an understanding of the true threat. It's almost as if the thought of a total societal collapse brought on by mass starvation is so disconcerting, unbelievable, and hard to plan for, planners just ignore it and pretend it doesn't exist. Ignoring the existential threat of mass chaos from hunger a week into a nationwide grid-down event, is the 900-pound Gorilla in the room waiting for their first seven days to pass so it can pounce on and smash every single plan these professionals have carefully crafted.

While I may not have access to detailed government or TS military response plans to a long-term grid-down event via EMP, CME, or a cyber-attack on the electric grid: I have read enough corporate action plans, civilian plans, and military strategic ideas to know they all have one thing in common... the authors and experts don't understand the real threat produced by Human Desperation, Starvation, and living WROL (Without Rule-Of-Law). For this reason, they can't envision the operating environment in which they are making their emergency plans.



**How will the average American (or soldier) respond to a radical and unrecognizable new life filled with utter confusion and deep desperation, without access to regular food, and without effective oversight?**

If you've never researched the answer to that threefold question, then you don't understand the real threat behind a long-term grid down event. Therefore, you are incapable to postulate on the aftermath accurately nor create an effective response plan to a devastating new world and an operating environment that will be completely foreign to you and to your subordinates. Mistakes will be made. Mass casualty will ensue.





# Understanding the Threat

The million-dollar question without a precise answer:

## **How will people react during a long-term grid-down situation?**

In years of research, I have yet to find a single research paper, book, or article written by a social psychologist discussing how human desperation, starvation, and living without rule of law will be present in a total collapse scenario. There has never been a psychological study or experiment conducted with the proper parameters to directly extrapolate relevant information and apply it to how the American people would respond to the chaos and starvation brought on by a nationwide, long-term, grid down scenario. It would be virtually impossible to conduct an experiment today to study the behavioral impacts of humans in a grid down situation because all psychological and sociological research is purely situational.

Most modern-day American studies of human despair and suffering (in the rare occasions where it is even studied) use data points gained from a population pool of everyday Americans over the last one-hundred years. We are the wealthiest and most entitled population in world history. What happens when, against their will, you instantly take every single life-sustaining necessity away from an average person? What happens when the average person hasn't eaten a single, substantial meal in an entire week? A month? What happens when you combine that by taking away every single creature comfort as well? What if you placed them in a hostile environment where they could potentially be killed at any moment by a starving stranger, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. What if you place them in a test environment with no parameters, no rules, and no oversight? How do you put people in such a scenario without giving them any information about what is going on and making them believe their horrific circumstances could go on indefinitely? How do you even study that from a psychological standpoint? How do you duplicate a grid down environment without getting sued into the next millennium? You can't.

All we can do is extrapolate as much information from prior studies and look to historical events behind Human Desperation, Starvation, and living WROL.





## Factor #1 – Human Desperation

Human Desperation is a very hard thing to explain or study because it encompasses such a wide range of issues in varying degrees. In America, we live our lives in a sort of protected bubble. Our world makes sense. There is a general sense of right and wrong on the macro level. We have drawn lines in the sand as to what type of behavior we will participate in and what type of behavior we will not. You can go about your daily life and it typically progresses as you planned it. Everyone develops life patterns and daily habits in the way we live our lives even if they don't realize it. Our human interactions with others are typically normal, safe, and sane. There is a pattern of cause and effect in our lives. We live in a generally safe environment. Most believe we will grow old with our loved ones and live to a ripe old age. If we are hurt, we can go to a hospital. If we are hungry, we can go to the store and buy food. If we want to know the secrets of the universe you can speak the words, "Ok Google" into a small handheld communication device and the secrets of the universe will appear before your eyes within milliseconds. If we want to converse with a loved one on the other side of the world, we can dial them on our cell phone and within moments we are talking with them or video conferencing with them in real time.

**Life is... normal. Things make sense. They've always been this way.**

It is now a month into a grid down environment. None of the previous statements are true for the average person. Nothing will make sense. You can't trust anyone. Nobody speaks to one another anymore and entering into a simple conversation with a stranger could get you robbed or killed. A few days ago, you watched a neighbor kill a traveler after fighting with them over a small can of baked beans the person was carrying inside their tattered backpack. The bloated victim is still laying in the middle of the street with his head half caved in. His empty eyes are staring at you through your front window. They seem to be staring directly into you, "why didn't you help me?" There was a small child traveling with the man who stayed by the body for a while, but you don't know where the child has gone. You try not to consider the possibilities. You can't even feed your own children let alone a stranger's child. You wonder to yourself when you became so cold? However, you still don't respond any differently because you've learned the hard way to mind your own business and ignore the atrocities happening around you. There is no law enforcement to come to your aid and in truth, there don't seem to be any rules or laws to follow. You have become numb to death and ignore the





person's bloated body along with all the other bodies strewn about your neighborhood. The smell of the new world is unbearable: rotten food, dead bodies, trash... it all combines to a horrific stench that you can't ever escape from, indoors or out.

Your spouse was out of town on business when the lights first went out. They could be anywhere. Are they still alive? You have done things to acquire food for your children that you wouldn't have fathomed you were capable of before the electricity went out. Your home is nearly inhabitable because raw sewage has backed up into it and you didn't know how to block it off at the street. You tried to stuff rags into the drains, but the rags keep popping out by the backpressure of feces and raw sewage. The grocery stores were looted weeks ago and you've long ago eaten the dry food in your kitchen. For the last week, you've been reduced to scavenging and eating rotten food from refrigerators in some of the abandoned houses around you. The last meal you ate contained more worms than food. You closed your eyes and held your nose as you swallowed. You are ashamed because you ate half of what you found and didn't give it all to your children. You were just so unbelievably hungry. It took every last vestige of will power to stop eating the rotten food once you started and even save some for your kids.

You've been drinking water from a barrel in your backyard that you have rigged your downspouts into. You can't risk bringing attention to yourself by starting a fire and boiling it, so you've just been drinking the water as it is. Everyone in the house has diarrhea now. Everyone is dehydrated and the rain barrel is almost empty. It hasn't rained in days. Your four-year-old child cut her leg last week, and it's now badly infected and she has a fever. The hospitals are abandoned. There is no one to help.

You are a failure. You can't provide food for your family because there is no food... anywhere. You look once more at the newest dead body in the street. It's obviously too late and too dangerous to travel now. Where would you go anyways? One of your neighbors left a week ago and told you that they'd heard word that Lackland AFB and San Antonio, Texas had power somehow. Regardless of the ambush danger, your neighbors were going to make a foolish attempt to walk halfway across the country. You look down at your daughter's pale skin and gaunt face and wonder how much longer she'll live. She'd never make the journey. You still don't understand why the electricity hasn't come back on. What is taking them so long to fix it? When will this end? There's no TV, internet, or radio transmissions giving hope or offering suggestions. You've heard a dozen different rumors, but no one seems to know exactly what is going on. Absolutely nothing about your current existence resembles your previous life. You are overwhelmed. What will you do? What can you do?

That is Human Desperation. You can't quantify it. You can't explain it. You can't study it. It will be different for everyone who lives through the grid-down scenario. Human Desperation will just exist. It can be caused by something as simple as constantly worrying about a loved one who you can't find or get to, or maybe something larger like you were forced to kill someone in self-defense and haven't been able to sleep for a week. It can manifest itself in a variety of emotions like sadness, depression, and rage. Every person inflicted with desperation will have difficulties making logical and rational decisions. People who are desperate are also completely incapable of being relied upon or trusted. They are so far out of their comfort zone; you can't predict how they will act or react. Human Desperation is an enigma. It is also the new normal.

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## Factor # 2 - Starvation

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This is the single most misunderstood and under-represented factor in all emergency planning (civilian, government, and military alike) when discussing a long-term grid-down event, primarily, because it's never happened in this country before. The planning of how to provide food to the populace without electricity is so overwhelmingly inconceivable, oftentimes, it is just ignored. However, to ignore human hunger in your planning doesn't make the threat go away or disappear and is ignored to the peril of the overall plan itself. Without question, the most devastating effect an EMP would have on the US population would be the destruction of the food distribution network followed closely by the loss of interstate trucking. Many aspects of a nationwide grid-down event are debatable. Which electronics will, or will not, be harmed is debatable. Which percentage of cars will, or will not, run is debatable. What is not debatable: it will be fundamentally impossible to feed all 320 million Americans spread out over the 3.8 million square miles without electricity and interstate trucking. It can not happen. You will not even be able to feed a single, major metropolitan city without electricity.

I spent two full days brainstorming and game-planning this very scenario with the mayor of a small town out west. Even with the resources surrounding that small rural farming town, we found it was impossible to feed the townspeople (less than 1,000 residents) for any extended period without outside aid and millions of dollars in 17th-

century infrastructure installed and tons of food set aside before the grid came down.

Many people just assume that "country folk" in small towns will be just fine in a grid-down scenario. It's not true. Maybe 100 years ago that would hold true, but not today. I have found that most small, country towns are every bit as reliant on electricity as big towns. If they knew the exact date of the attack and had a year to prepare for it then, yes, they could do it and they would spend the money preparing for that day. However, even if you had the farming infrastructure in place, you still need to feed those 1,000 people for three months until your crops begin to grow. One thousand people eat a LOT of food every day. No food is the problem!

When most people consider the loss of electricity, their brain quickly moves to the lights going out, public water not working, and their heat and/or air conditioning not working in their home for a few hours. When you tell someone, they could be without power for a year or longer, they extrapolate their previous experience(s) out over a year and typically consider additional inconveniences like not having TV, internet, Social Media access, and waiting in long lines at the gas pumps. They quickly determine that life without electricity would "really suck". Rarely, do they ever consider the total and utter chaos and their own family slowly dying of starvation to be part of the longer-term effects of life without electricity. Again, it's a result of normalcy bias. It's hard for their brain to consider outlying possibilities because they never experienced those situations in the prior instances where they lost power at home and they are too terrible to consider or perceived to be too hard to plan for.

### WHAT IS NOT DEBATABLE:

It will be fundamentally impossible to feed all 320 million Americans spread out over 3.8 million square miles without electricity and interstate trucking.

It will not happen.





The American people over the ages have proven to be very resourceful when confronted with hard times and catastrophes. Because of this, most people just assume that, as American's, we'll just pick each other up by the bootstraps, help each other out, brainstorm the problem and fix it. It's what we've always done as a nation: Pearl Harbor, 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, The Great Depression, and many other examples throughout American history. I often hear of various natural disasters when discussing emergency preparedness. All those previous examples (minus the Great Depression) were localized tragedies. In every instance, the bulk of the country was unaffected and quickly rallied to the aid of those impacted. There might have been some hunger or food deprivation for very short periods of time, but never true starvation. It's an apples and oranges comparison.



Some will point to the Great Depression as to how America would deal with an extended grid down scenario. It is not even remotely relevant. Our food infrastructure functioned completely different than our computer controlled just-in-time delivery system of today. We don't have the small off-grid farming ability of a hundred years ago. In 1820, 72 percent of our population were farmers. In 1920, 30 percent of our population were farmers. Today, less than 2 percent of our population work in agriculture<sup>8</sup>. Our large-

scale farming operations that feed our population today, like everything else in this country, don't function without computers, electricity, the internet, access to large-scale commercial trucking industries, distribution algorithms, open lines of communication between the various entities, and access to large amounts of fuel.

Even outside of farming, a hundred years ago, a good percentage of Americans, both rural and urban, grew a fair percentage of their own sustenance through gardening and keeping small animals like chickens. While some portions of that self-sustaining lifestyle are still present in a very tiny percentage of our populace, let's face it, the majority of the US population don't have the life skills that were prevalent in the generation that lived through the Great Depression. We certainly don't have enough large-scale, non-electric farm implements and water wheel powered grain mills and grinding facilities. Remember, even during the Great Depression with mass hunger rampant and food deprivation common, cases of people actually dying of starvation was not very common in America. Most importantly though, throughout the Great Depression, you still had a country ruled by law and order and overall human desperation only reached moderate levels even in the portions of society that experienced the most hunger. The Great Depression is not a good representation of the type of situation we would encounter after a year-long blackout from an EMP or Solar Storm.

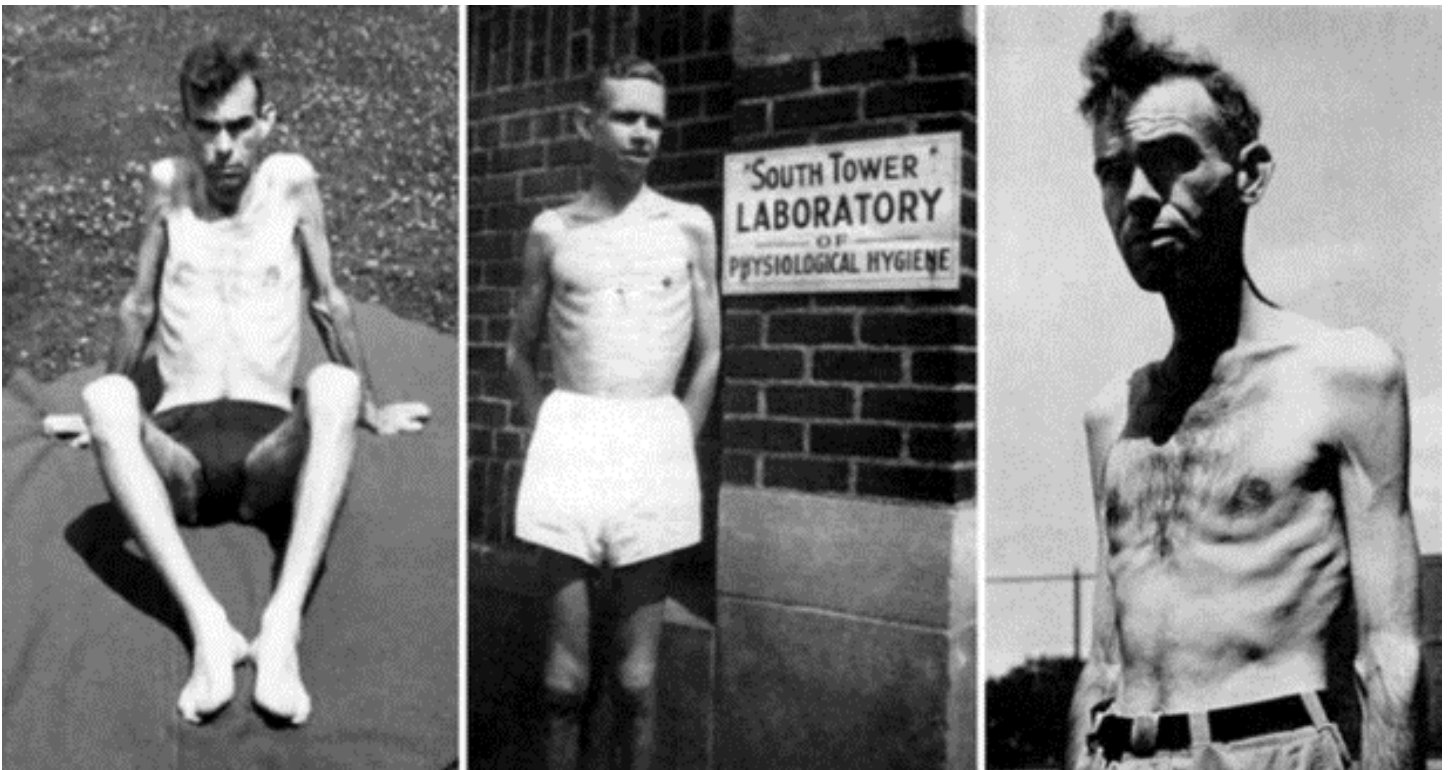
So that brings us to the truth of true starvation and what that looks like in a grid down scenario. Just like Human Desperation and living WROL, running a psychological study where you actually put real people into a horrific starvation situation would be impossible to perform in today's academic environment. Fortunately, regarding starvation, we don't have to extrapolate outside test data very far. Believe it or not, we've actually performed a study during WW II where we did just that: We literally starved some men for six months to study their psychological and physiological reactions.



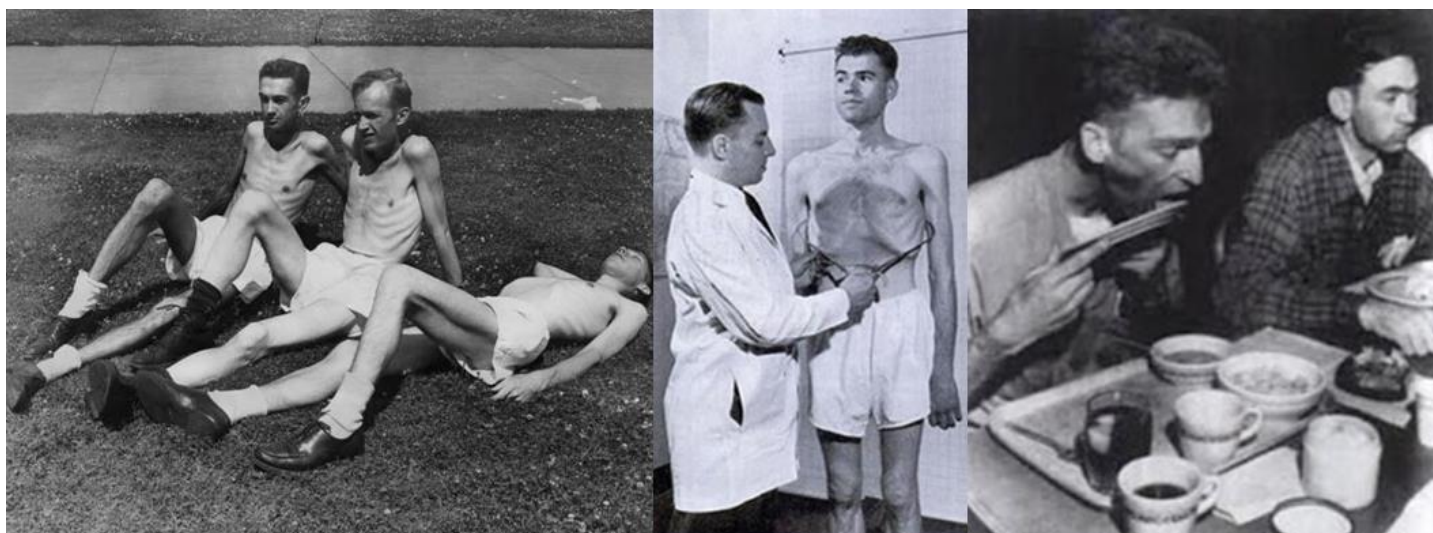
Otherwise known as the Minnesota Starvation Experiment<sup>9</sup>, the study was led by Ancel Keys (inventor of the K-ration) and involved 36 male volunteers between November 19, 1944, and December 20, 1945. In 1950 the full study was released in two large volumes, totaling 1,385 pages of slogging text entitled *The Biology of Human Starvation*<sup>10</sup>.

Here is a summary of what the study found<sup>11</sup>:

- Prolonged semi-starvation produced significant increases in depression, hysteria and hypochondriasis (a focus on somatic concerns) as measured by the MMPI (a test of personality)
- Most participants experienced periods of severe emotional distress and depression and grew increasingly irritable
- Some individuals engaged in self-mutilation (these days we call this self-harm, often seen in people struggling with regulating their emotions) – apparently one person cut off three fingers with an axe although it was unsure if this was deliberate or accidental
- Many appeared apathetic and lethargic with a diminished sexual interest
- Volunteers showed signs of social withdrawal and isolation
- Participants reported a decline in concentration, comprehension and judgment capabilities



Some of you may be left with the impression that these poor men weren't given any food for an extended period of time, but that's not the case. To be sure that you keep this in perspective, this was actually a very regimented study of "semi-starvation". These men were only restricted to **half-rations** (1,570 calories per day) for 24 weeks. Read over those symptoms again and consider the following outside factors when doing so. These men were fed twice, every single day on a very regimented schedule. At no point were they forced to wonder when or where their next meal would come. While the meals were bland, at no point did they go even a single day without access to normal food. They were never faced with the possibility of committing violence to get food. The men in the study knew they were part of and volunteered for the study. They knew the exact date the study would end, therefore they had hope and optimism for their future. There were doctors in lab coats and caretakers that poured over them daily to be sure their lives were not in danger. There were no outside forces endangering their safety or threatening their lives. None of them worried about the safety or health of their extended family and human desperation was not part of the study (outside of the normal emotions brought on by their hunger). There was rule-of-law and they were in a well-regulated environment. They had access to outside information, newspapers, and radio entertainment. If the symptoms presented in the study only paint a picture of "semi-starvation" during a peaceful environment: depression, hysteria and hypochondriasis, Irritability, self-mutilation, Apathy, lethargy, diminished sexual interest, social withdrawal, isolation, and a decline in concentration, comprehension, and judgment capabilities –



What does true starvation look like in a long-term grid-down scenario when there will be ZERO food available for an extended time for most of the population? What will those symptoms develop into when you take away ALL their food, their hope, and put them in a horrific environment. How bad would it get? Consider that the nation's grocery stores will be looted within days. Within a week or two every factory, store, distribution center, and canning facility will be picked clean of every last scrap of food. Remember, without interstate trucking, functioning gas stations, and a broken infrastructure... once those places are cleaned out, they will never be resupplied. Most large game in the wild will be shot and eaten within a month or two. By the end of the first month, most Americans will be going days between having access to any "real" food and it will only get worse as the year progresses. Most people would be fantasizing over having access to 1,570 calories in a single day. You can take those psychological responses from the study above and multiply them times ten... times one hundred. It's almost impossible to wrap your head around the concept of starving to death in the richest country in the world. When you take true starvation and add it to human desperation and living WROL, it's almost impossible to paint a picture of society in that instance. I fear the results will be infinitely worse than we can even fathom.

If you get nothing else from this report,  
please realize this simple fact!

If you are unable to **consistently** and **adequately** feed your emergency personnel (first responders, electrical engineers, military members, **AND** all their family members),

### **EVERY PLAN YOU DEVISE WILL EVENTUALLY FAIL!**

(likely, faster than you believe possible)



### **Buyer Beware!**

The average long-term freeze-dried food plans sold to unsuspecting buyers in the preparedness community typically contain around 800 calories per day. Let that number sink in when you consider that the men in this study were eating twice the calories per day than that food plan offers you.

In other words, if you are relying on that expensive 1-Year Food Plan to feed your family in a grid down event, you probably have less than 4 months of actual food and your family likely won't make it through the first winter. Make positively sure you are buying your long-term food based on the caloric count of the food plan **AND NOT** the various food companies' deceptive "total servings" they contain in their food plan.

In reviewing hundreds of clients' survival retreats, this is by far the #1 issue I see... Not enough food! For more information on how to buy and store long-term food, consider my book, *Survival Theory: A Preparedness Guide*.



## A Personal Anecdote on The Minnesota Starvation Experiment



Figure 1 - US Air Force SERE Training, Class 97-02 - Washington State, January 1997

One of the quotes from the Minnesota Starvation Experiment hit very close to home for me. "Sex and romance lost their appeal. Food became their overwhelming priority. Some of the men obsessively read cookbooks, staring at pictures of food with an almost pornographic obsession."<sup>12</sup>

I laughed out loud at that description because I had personally experienced that emotion during my training to become a SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape) Instructor in the Air Force during the late 1990s. Our first phase of

training was 22 frigid days in January, in the mountains of Washington State, given very limited amounts of food, worked tirelessly, given minimal hours of sleep... by the end, my nineteen-year-old, lean and muscular, 6 foot- 4-inch frame lost 15 lbs during those three weeks in the field. That trip was designed to push us to our limits and weed out the weak. I believe we lost nearly a third of our class that first trip.

Over twenty years ago now, I can still envision sitting around the campfire in the evenings with my brothers literally fantasizing about food, talking about food, and arguing about food. Everyone had a write-in-the-rain notebook for taking notes and on the final page, everybody kept a list of food we intended to buy and eat. We would discuss those various food items for hours huddled around the flickering light of a campfire, scribbling in our notepads, ranking the food items, prioritizing them, and trying to figure out how we could barter a ride off base after returning and acquire the items on our list. As the study mentions, fantasizing about food was nearly an obsession towards the last few days of that trip and that's all anyone talked about.

Unfortunately, I can also envision that first night back on base: gorging myself on 2 large bacon and pepperoni pizzas from Dominos, A one-pound bag of peanut M&M's, and a 2-liter bottle of Coca-Cola. I would eat until I puked and then start eating again. I would repeat the same process multiple times throughout that first evening and night. Those memories have never left me.



### Factor # 3 – Living Without-Rule-of-Law

One of the biggest reason's society will collapse in the first week will be the loss of our law enforcement institutions. Just like healthcare workers, military, and other first responders, policemen are just people. Those with families will only show up for work for so long. When things start to fall apart, you will lose a good portion of your police force. I don't think anyone would debate that mass rioting and looting will ensue and escalate the longer we face a grid down event. Those with families and children in the path of the rioting and looting will immediately go home to protect their loved ones, and justifiably so. How long are the single men and women on the police force, the ones with no family, going to keep showing up? What happens if the police cruisers don't function? What happens if traffic is gridlocked and there is no way to get anywhere. What are you even responding to without the 911 telephone system functioning? Where do the police get the fuel for their cruisers? What happens when their radios don't work, and they can't call for backup? What happens when they do detain someone, and they can't use their computer to do a check on the person's background? If they arrest the person, how are they going to transport them back to the station? Is the prison functioning? There is mass rioting and looting, where do you house everyone you arrest? How do you feed them? In a world with little to no food, do you feed them? How do you schedule the judges time when that all runs through electronic scheduling? Is it even a fair trial if you can't get a lawyer there for representation? What happens when the local jail is overflowing? How long do you think law enforcement will keep showing up for work in that kind of environment?

In the major cities, I believe you'll lose law enforcement within a day or two at most. Again, that is not to denigrate them, it's just that they won't be able to perform their jobs and they'll need to go home to protect their families or other loved ones as the chaos worsens. In small rural communities, the local sheriff and deputies may be able to get around a while longer and deal with the logistical issues easier with fewer people in their town. But eventually, a week or two at most, they are going to face the same problems with maintaining order as the bigger cities. Trying to maintain order when people are beginning to truly starve will be like trying to herd cats. If you could maintain a strong enough police presence, you can maintain order for a short time. But once people begin to really starve, no amount of effective leadership or strict martial law will maintain order in that type of environment. At some point, you will lose law and order in our society.







What happens when there is no effective oversight or rule-of-law to live under? What happens, when you add Human Desperation and Starvation into the equation? For now, let's just focus on the results of living without oversight or living WROL by itself. One of my highest recommendations on this subject is a book by a world-renown scientist, Philip Zimbardo called *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil*<sup>13</sup>.

Some may recognize his name. Professor emeritus at Stanford University, Zimbardo was the psychologist who conducted "The Stanford Prison Experiment" back in 1971. In the basement of an academic building on Stanford's campus, he created a simulated prison and then randomly assigned 19 normal students as either prisoners or guards without giving them any ground rules or oversight. He stepped back and observed them via cameras. Within 24

hours, the nice, normal, average college students began to delve into depression, violence, self-loathing, and downright cruelty to the other students. The horrific conditions ultimately escalated until the experiment was terminated far earlier than planned for safety reasons. If you've never read the Stanford Prison Experiment study, I suggest that you do so, in all its horrifying and fascinating detail. Otherwise, you might assume that modern psychology can take a person's individual character and the various characteristics of their personality and predict their future actions in an uncontrolled environment. It cannot!

Another book I recommend is *The Banality of Evil*, by Hannah Arendt<sup>14</sup>. A professor of sociology at Princeton, Hannah's many books and articles on topics ranging from totalitarianism to epistemology have had a lasting influence on political theory. Arendt is widely considered one of the



most important political philosophers of the twentieth century. During the post-war trial of Adolf Eichmann, one of the major organizers of the Holocaust, Hannah spent six weeks at the trial. Arendt's argument was that Eichmann was not a monster, contrasting the immensity of his actions with the very ordinariness of the man himself<sup>15</sup>. While her findings are debatable in some circles, her research into Eichmann explains how outside, situational forces can be applied to a normal family man to carry out extraordinary evil. But most will say that they could never be forced or persuaded to commit extraordinary evil... could you?

University. Spurred into action by the horrible events during the Holocaust and his reaction to the trial of Adolf Eichmann, Milgram set up a study to test the limits of obedience to authority. Today it is widely known as The Milgram Experiment<sup>16</sup>. The participants and volunteers for his study were instructed to shock a mental patient that was hooked up to a machine as part of a research study. The level of shock would (fictionally) increase the further experiment progressed as the patient answered questions wrongly. The level of shock would progress all the way up to a deadly 450 volts which was clearly marked on the machine in front of

Put yourself in the long-term grid-down scenario. Ask yourself what you would do? Better yet, ask yourself what wouldn't you do to acquire food for your starving child or a loved one?

Put yourself in the long-term grid-down scenario. Ask yourself what you would do? Better yet, ask yourself what wouldn't you do to acquire food for your starving child or a loved one? Would you steal from your neighbor? Would you commit a strong-armed robbery? Would you kill someone to get food if it meant life or death for your child? The lines you draw in the sand and the behavior you think you aren't capable of... that ship has long sailed. Some would say I'm exaggerating. I would say I'm doing the opposite. For fear of being dismissed, I may be drastically underselling the situation. How do you think the average American is really going to react during their starvation cycle?

If you are in the camp that things won't really get that bad or believe that normal people won't do commit horrible atrocities against each other, you are wrong. Some will be forced into it against their will for self-preservation of themselves or a family member. Some may be convinced or persuaded to do evil things in trade for food. Others may just follow the crowd and copy what others are doing in the situation. I would next point you to a 1963 study by Stanley Milgram, a social psychologist and a professor at Yale

the volunteer. [naturally, the machine was fake and the patients were actors and not really getting shocked]

Professor Milgram polled forty other Psychologists before he performed this study. They believed that only 1% of Americans would go "all the way" during the study. And only sadists would engage in that behavior. In the random study of average Americans, over sixty-five percent went all the way to shocking a fellow stranger to death simply by obeying those in authority or being persuaded it was being done in the name of science. The study has been replicated hundreds of times all around the world with varying parameters. Most researchers experienced similar results. The relevance of Milgram's obedience to authority and dangers of conformity study may not directly compare to the psychology behind human desperation, starvation, and living WROL. However, the major takeaway from Milgram's study is that a large majority of average Americans were easily capable of committing great harm or even death to another human being, contrary to the opinion of modern psychology.



How is it that nearly all the Psychologists polled before this study were wrong in their predictions of the results? With modern Psychology, a psychiatrist's training is only in dispositional analysis. You may think you know what you are capable of. You may have drawn some invisible line in the sand regarding some "evil" behavior you're convinced that you would never take part in. The truth is, you can never be sure. For Psychiatrists, everything is inside your head, and they mostly ignore situational variables. This is a common issue with modern psychology, and it's called Fundamental Attribution Error<sup>17</sup>. Modern Psychology typically focuses on a patient's disposition and not the situational forces that surround them. In truth, your external environmental factors are massively important to the way you think. The external factors that shape your current decision-making process can also radically change in the future if new and different external factors are introduced. A good example of this many of you would recognize would be the book, *Lord of the Flies*<sup>18</sup>, and how the behavior of average school students could radically change when their external environment changed.

Normally what controls our behavior is cognitive control (what are the consequences if I do this bad thing?) and self-restraint (based on laws and our concept of morality in our current environment). Those are the two factors that typically keep us from acting immorally on a daily basis. But... what is immoral or wrong? It is important to note that

So many people planning for a long-term grid-down scenario seem to be utterly incapable of removing themselves from the world they currently live in because of normalcy bias. They want to believe that things will make sense later. They want to plan and rationalize their decisions based on a world that sadly won't exist when their plan is finally implemented.

there is no internal, biological standard of "right vs wrong" hard-wired into our human DNA at birth. This idea that mankind is generally good vs generally evil is just flat wrong and has been proven so in numerous studies.

What is acceptable behavior is wholly dependent on external environment and peripheral, situational forces. In other words, your behavior is primarily dominated by your environment. It is a widely accepted concept on a molecular level, but most don't realize the same is true on a universal level as well. For instance, it is common for a parent to tell a child "you are (or you will become) who you associate with at school". We say this as a warning to keep our children from hanging out with the "bad" kids at school and being influenced by them. However, while most people would easily accept that premise as being true for children, they will have a hard time accepting that every aspect of your daily decisions is driven by the same concept. What is right or wrong? It is developed by a lifetime of environment. Watching your parents, peers, and leaders behave in the world around you as you grow up. Seeing how the people most important to you in your environment interact with others. In other words, social norms.



But the inevitable next question would be... where are social norms (or social behavior that is acceptable in a society) derived from? They are derived from our outside environment - our current social norms are a result of the safe, sane, and lawful environment we live in today. However, if you radically transform the population's environment into something dark and terrible, you need to realize that what is considered to be "social norms" will also radically transform as well. So many people planning for a long-term grid-down scenario seem to be utterly incapable of removing themselves from the world they currently live in today because of normalcy bias. They want to believe that things will make sense later. They want to plan and rationalize their decisions based on a world that sadly won't exist when their plan is finally implemented. Sometimes I wonder if some of these expert's only frame of reference to living through this type of event is from watching TV shows like *The Walking Dead* or some other Hollywood movie they'd seen in the past.

This is where studying history comes into play and is so vitally important to understand the threat. Do you want to see the truth inside the depths of human depravity in historical times where Human Desperation, Starvation, and Living WROL? Do you want your eyes opened to a world you won't recognize?

I would recommend you read the following books:

1. *The Gulag Archipelago* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn<sup>19</sup>
2. *The Rape of Nanking*, by Iris Chang<sup>20</sup>
3. *Survival in Auschwitz*, by Primo Levi<sup>21</sup>
4. *Ordinary Men: Reserve Battalion 101*, By Christopher Browning<sup>22</sup>





Research historical times of starvation like the Great Chinese Famine and see how it affected the populace. Dig-in to history! Look at historical references to times where people truly suffered. Try and understand the mindset of the people that will fall under your command or those you will be relying on to carry out your emergency plan of action. Learn true human nature and research the psychology behind how people will act and react in these types of situations.

Of all the books I've mentioned and recommended, there is one which I consider to be a must-read for anyone preparing for a grid-down event or part of the emergency planning process. The book is called *The Dark Secrets of SHTF Survival*, by Selco Begovic<sup>23</sup>. Subtitled, *The Brutal Truth About Violence, Death, and Mayhem You Must Know to Survive*, Selco considers himself a "Preparedness Mythbuster". Selco is a survivor of the Balkan Wars in the mid-'90s. For an entire year, he lived and survived in a modern city after it lost: electricity, fuel, running water, real food distribution, or distribution of any goods, or any kind of organized law or government. He literally lived through a long-term grid-down scenario. The atrocities he witnessed are important to understand. The thought process behind his decisions, how he dealt with hunger and starvation, how he dealt with mass casualties happening around him and how it's affected his life since.

#### **From the Book's Description on Amazon<sup>24</sup>:**

"This is not a guide that will tell you step-by-step HOW to survive. This is a reality check that will tell you that everything you have expected and planned for is probably wrong. Selco is a household name in prepping and survival circles. He survived the Balkan War in a city with no power, no running water, and no supplies. For a year, he and his family fought every single day for bare subsistence. The first thing you must do when disaster strikes is to adapt quickly to the "new rules" that apply when the SHTF. And to do that, you need to know what it's like so you won't be shocked...frozen...paralyzed by the atrocities taking place right in front of you. This book is Selco's version of tough love. There's nothing watered down about it. It is a collection of stories, memories, and articles he has documented over the past decade. He has revisited those horrible days to give us the reality check we must have. It's a glimpse into the day-to-day events of the SHTF. It is smelly. It is dirty. It's dark and brutal. It's REAL. It is all the stuff that Selco rarely talks about because the memories are so ugly."

Selco's book will not win any literary awards. It's written in broken English, the margins are wide, and the grammar is not perfect... but the critical first-hand experience Selco relates to the reader and the visuals he paints of a grid down scenario are vital for preparedness mindset people to see. While it's not a perfect parallel to a grid down event in America (his city did receive occasional food drops), I don't believe there is a better case study to wrap your head around what it's like to live in a post-grid environment in a previously modern city. Without a doubt, this is a must-read book for emergency planners.

Starvation can be controlled if you gain access to or have the ability to grow your own food. Human desperation can sometimes be controlled with faith and religion. Living in a situation without rule-of-law is something you have absolutely no control over.





Starvation can be controlled if you gain access to or have the ability to grow your own food (and protect it). Human Desperation can sometimes be controlled with Faith and Religion. Living in a situation without rule-of-law is something you have absolutely no control over. Combined with human desperation, it is next to impossible to know exactly how someone is going to act or react to the situation. If you have the ability to control starvation, it will help prevent the extremes of human desperation. If you can control those first two factors, you now have to contend with the rest of society who are suffering and living without any rules and social norms have gone out the window. My professional recommendation to my clients is to get far away from mass population centers in a grid-down event. The less human interaction you can have with hungry and desperate people, the better your chances of survival. I realize that the military and emergency responders may have access to some food and rule-of-law through their organizational hierarchy (at least at first). Be sure you don't under-estimate the people outside your gates who may be suffering a lot worse than you are and may not be thinking as clearly as yourself. Make sure you understand the threat that those starving and desperate people pose to you and our organization.



# Conclusion



So, what is the point of all this information? Am I just fearmongering? Maybe I'm just being pessimistic or a Negative Nelly. I've spent many years researching the various grid down scenarios. I've read hundreds (likely thousands) of reports, articles, and books looking at a grid down scenario from every angle you can possibly study it. I've had personal experience dealing with hunger as a SERE Instructor. Throughout my journey over the last two decades, I am continually astounded by the absolute and complete lack of understanding that many of the preparedness experts and emergency planners have when discussing a grid down event. Recently, a leader in one of the largest EMP preparedness organizations actually told me they thought it was important to develop a nationwide plan to keep the grade schools up and running after an EMP attack so the young children would have a safe place to go to and food to eat during the extended crisis. The mere premise that an important decision-maker in the EMP preparedness community actually believes this to be a good idea... it literally blew my mind! I was speechless and it took me a few awkward moments to even figure out how to politely respond to the statement. I do not tell that story to disparage the person that made the recommendation, I am positive it came from the person's heart and their care for the poor children who will be suffering through this terrible scenario. I tell the story to show a single example of an important figure in the EMP protection community who literally has no earthly idea about the chaos that is coming in a post-EMP environment or how to effectively deal with it. From my personal experience with other experts in the field of preparedness and emergency planners, sadly, these types of illogical ideas are very typical of what I see when discussing long-term grid-down scenarios.

Most experts in emergency management and emergency planning departments usually have some type of experience dealing with at least one of the three critical factors discussed herein. However, their experience with those factors will be at a significantly lower degree of severity and never more than one, maybe two factors at the same time... and never for an entire year straight. No one has ever dealt with a massive tragedy without some sort of electricity, open communication channels, assistance from FEMA and the Red Cross, and without hundreds of civilian charities and government assistance coming to their aid. I think that is part of the problem with these same organizations being involved in the post-EMP planning process. All of their previous experience in disaster preparedness is based on things working a certain way, coordinating with willing volunteers, applying certain mindsets, and then experiencing certain levels of success from those efforts. A nationwide grid-down event will be such a radically different animal than anything they've ever experienced. If you can't accurately envision the numerous obstacles that you'll face in the most chaotic operating environment imaginable, your action plan is destined to fail.

If you can't accurately envision the numerous obstacles that you'll face in the most chaotic operating environment imaginable, your action plan is destined to fail.



So how does these concepts transition from first responders to the military, post-collapse? Many are now aware that the US military receives 99% of its electricity from the civilian electric grid<sup>25</sup>. While the previous statement is largely known fact among those planning for a grid down event, many of the same planners have never considered that nearly every US military dining facility is now under civilian contract and the military is wholly reliant on civilian trucking infrastructure to deliver their food resupply<sup>26</sup>. While many experts see the risk and threat of losing electricity to the bases and they are quickly trying to brainstorm and come up with a solution to harden or isolate military bases into micro-grids or other ideas... they always seem to forget that soldiers need to eat too. Maybe the experts just assume someone else is taking care of that problem. If there is a plan for that, I've never heard of it and neither has anyone I've ever reached out to.



In basic training, the military takes young enlisted men and women and partially strips them of their individuality so they can be molded into a collective group and operate as a cohesive unit. The Military then trains its officers to move those cohesive units around on a chess board. While my American perspective may be jaded, I believe our military brass to be some of the best chess players in the world. But these aren't chess pieces we speak of, they're people: often just teenage kids. They are individuals with mothers and fathers, sisters, girlfriends, wives and children. One of the best aspects of the military is that we take care of our own. If we send young men to fight a war on the other side of the world, they can rest assured that their wives, children, and family will be taken care of and kept safe.



In a grid down scenario, the situation will be reversed. In the early weeks, the troops on base may feel safe while their families are the ones in harm's way. When the troops start to get word of the chaos, panic, starvation, and destruction happening throughout the country, I can assure you that a good portion of your troops **WILL** desert their post to go home and check on their immediate family members. How can I be so certain? How many of you have studied the desertion rates during General Sherman's March<sup>27</sup> during the Civil War? Many know that Sherman's march helped end the war but often people don't know why. When the Confederate soldiers from Georgia heard that Sherman had burned Atlanta and was destroying every farm along his path of destruction towards Savannah, they deserted their posts en masse to go home and check on their families and their farms.

Per the NY Times titled, *Re-thinking Sherman's March*<sup>28</sup>:



"By waging war against the minds of his opponents, Sherman's march achieved its creator's goal of hastening an end to the conflict: the wives of Confederate soldiers along the route of the march or who feared they lay in the path of Sherman's advancing legions begged their husbands to come home, and desertions increased significantly during the fall and winter of 1864-65. This hemorrhaging from Gen. Robert E. Lee's army in Virginia further depleted his already thin ranks and allowed Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to deliver the knockout blow in the spring of 1865." Desertion is not a subject the military studies at length today, especially in the historical context. Understandably, there really isn't a reason for them to study it because it hasn't been a major problem for over one hundred and fifty years. The three factors of human desperation, starvation, and living WROL will certainly affect soldiers every bit as dramatically as it will their civilian counterparts. As things start to fall apart throughout the country, they will become desperate for news of home and extended family. They may begin to question the "rule-of-law" on base if communications networks are down and there is no clearly defined response

plan and their leaders aren't responding effectively to the crisis (at least in the perspective of the troops). A couple of days later when the MRE's run out and there is no more food on base... well, the base perimeter fence may begin to look like swiss cheese. If you can't take care of your own troops, or ensure their families' safety, or maintain their faith in the bedrock of the chain of command and their belief that there is a plan [somewhere], and if you can't feed everyone involved you **will** lose the bulk of your personnel to desertion. This goes for the military, first responder, electric grid employees, employees at the nuclear facilities, etc... If you can't take care, feed, and protect your personnel **and** their families, they are going to leave!



So, what now? I assume I will be donned with the crown of *Fearmonger in Chief*. I often hear that my writing depresses some people and makes them feel hopeless. That's alright. I'd prefer that someone faces the dark truth and the reality of the situation than continue to ignore the facts of living without electricity in a modern world. I would prefer that the experts err on the side of caution while making plans for a long-term grid-down event than continue to stay ignorant of how radically the operating environment will change when human desperation, starvation, and living WROL are factored in. What happened to the idea of "readiness" in the emergency planning realms? How can you prepare or be ready for a threat you've never researched and you don't understand? If anything, I hope this paper fosters more discussion on the topics of human desperation, starvation, and living WROL. Maybe a professional or social psychologist will pick up where I left off and perform some more research into this oddball topic.

I regularly speak out against making plans or operating your preparedness from a mindset of fear or panic. These are complicated times, and this is a complicated subject with many opinions and perspectives. It's important to keep a level head when considering plans for disaster preparedness even if the future looks dark. Hopefully, all those who read this paper will take my personal and corporate motto to heart... "Prepare for the worst, Hope for the best, and let God do the rest."

# Thought Exercises



## Feeding the Troops: A Mental Exercise

Today, because of the beauty of modern technology and electricity, the average active-duty soldier can stroll through a buffet line and eat three squares a day at our military's state-of-the-art dining facilities. The ease of feeding troops in this manner immediately stops after the grid comes down! Our military men and women are fed in chow facilities and supplied at base commissaries that are managed and operated under civilian military contracts. Has anyone ever stopped to wonder whether or not that food would continue to be delivered to the base each day after a grid-down event?

Like all food distribution networks in the US today, that military's civilian contractors organize and operate their chow halls and commissaries with POS-style computers perfectly synced with precision food management software, distribution center networks, shipping coordinators, trucking companies, and delivery personnel. All of your base's food is dependent on a complex matrix of tens of thousands of electrical signals bouncing around the country on a daily basis. This complex food infrastructure is contracted out so your soldiers' food can be delivered fresh on multiple truck deliveries each and every week and the military can focus on its war-fighting and defense missions. The computers and networks for the chow hall manager, cash registers, trucking, and delivery companies, food distribution centers, food canning facilities and twenty other steps in between are not going to function without electricity. Even if you could harden or replace their computers, they surely aren't going to be synced up on a network with the entirety of the American electric grid down.

America was just struck by a high-altitude nuclear weapon specifically designed to create an EMP...

You are a military base commander and an effective leader. You assign someone you trust to oversee it and pick some random soldiers to coordinate the cooking of food. What about the appliances in your modern chow hall kitchen? Will any of them function without electricity? Probably not. How will the men you assigned cook the food? If your first instinct is with a "field kitchen" or Mobile Kitchen Trailer, please note that these operate off diesel generators and propane cooktops. Both of the fuels needed for those kitchens to function will be in extremely limited supply the longer the event continues. Right now, it's estimated that Military bases have enough diesel fuel for backup generation to last 2-3 days at most. How will you maintain the food items that require refrigeration before they quickly go bad? Eat the refrigerated items first, right? Will the future recipes still be the same when you remove any items requiring refrigeration? Would the meals even be edible if you removed those ingredients? Speaking of meals and recipes, I bet every one of those recipes is kept on a computer. A computer that is now fried because it was plugged in when the EMP hit. The chow hall manager only showed up for a day or two. Who figures out how to cook the remaining and rapidly dwindling food stores? How? With what recipe?

Those are minor issues. Where will you get clean and purified water to cook with since the base or neighboring town's water supply is surely not functioning (at least for very long)? Is there an active water source like a stream or river that runs through the middle of the base? Likely not. How do you mass purify water for consumption, cooking, cleaning, and bathing, by boiling it? How many [dead] trees do you have on base and how many cords of firewood will it produce? How long will it last with the dozens of cook fires you'll need each day, not to mention the never-ending fire to purify the water for the base's consumption?





What happens when you run out of dead trees? Do you send troops into the neighboring forests to cut firewood? How many chainsaws does the base have? How many spare chainsaw blades do you have? Will they stand up to the long-term abuse? What happens when you run out of gas for them? How many axes do you have on base? How do you transport all those logs back to the base when you run out of diesel for the trucks? What happens when it becomes too overwhelming to boil water and people start drinking water from unclean sources. Dysentery alone killed 1/6th of the soldiers that died during the civil war<sup>29</sup>.

How do you wash all those dirty dishes each day when you run out of soap? You do realize that you HAVE TO thoroughly wash and disinfect each and every dish and fork or foodborne illness and disease will spread like wildfire through the base. Where does ALL that clean water come from? Where does the massive amount of anti-bacterial dish soap you'll need come from? What about disinfectants like bleach?

On a side note and speaking of foodborne illness. The most likely culprit leading to foodborne illness throughout history is cooking with dirty hands, typically hands with fecal matter on them. What do you do when the septic system on base backs up and everyone starts to defecate outside their back door in random locations because they don't want to walk to the open pit toilets you dug sporadically throughout the base. What happens after a week or two, when the toilet paper runs out and there is no more anti-bacterial hand soap to be had to clean your cook's hands?



Okay, back on point. So, maybe you plan to feed the entire US military fighting force on MREs? Has anyone ever tallied up the total amount of MREs currently stored by the US military and crunched the numbers on how long that will sustain the entire US fighting force? Oh, wait... you are forgetting their families! Are you going to feed just the military personnel and not the other civilian men and women under your control that live on base? That would go badly, so you need to count on feeding the civilians as well. How long can you feed them under that premise? It's no secret how soldiers dislike being put on rations during a field exercise especially if there were other perceived food options available to them. Nobody "enjoys" eating MREs for more than a day or two. But again, I'd bet there aren't enough MREs in the entire military to feed EVERY single soldier and their families for even an entire week.

So MREs are not a viable, long-term option. The current food on base will run out in days, or a single week at best. What do you feed to the thousands of people on base, living under your care after the MREs are gone? I should say, How do you feed them after that? What type of food will you be able to feed them? For how long? Where will it come from? How will it be delivered from various distances? What about six months down the road!? What will you be feeding them then? Will you be feeding them whole wheat berries, dried corn, and mixed bean soup from raw supplies flown in from the large grain bins in the Midwest? How will you cook that raw grain without functional commercial grain mills? Will your troops receive one meal of tasteless boiled mush per day or two? Does the military have massive stores of multivitamins to supplement your soldier's limited diet? Did you perceive in losing some of the grain shipments due to the civilian ambushes along the distribution routes trying to steal food from the food delivery convoys? What are the rules of engagement against hungry and starving civilians... American men and women, that sadly look like they just stepped out of a scene from Schindler's List? How will taking the lives of fellow Americans (even in self-defense) affect your troops psyche? How will the lack of food and basic nutrition affect your men's morale and their ability to perform their duties? With experience in this area as a former



USAF SERE Instructor, I can assure you that, over time, most of your troops are going to turn into a pile of pudding in uniform when it comes to decision making and hard work when you limit their basic caloric needs on a daily basis. Have any of you ever studied the psychological effects of people under strict diets and long-term food regiments with very limited variety and nutrition?

This isn't even an exhaustive list of questions on a single, but very serious, subject of feeding your men. Every single task you need to perform in a world without electricity should be pre-planned with the same (or more) scrutiny. I actually shortened this section and the number of questions I wanted to ask on the subject because I didn't want to lose the reader.

Do you seriously think all these obstacles can be overcome while making decisions on the fly? If the simple task of feeding the military is not thoroughly planned out before a long-term grid-down event and you believe you can just "wing it" when the time comes... well...

### **The Point:**

All of your other post-EMP/CME planning will be for naught if you don't adequately perform this single task:

**You Must Keep Your Troops and Their Families Fed!**







## Feeding the Troops: **By the Numbers**

### Assuming an EMP hit tomorrow...

The average American eats 2,000 pounds of food each year<sup>30</sup>. Today, you have 1.4 million active duty members and 900k Guard/Reservists (who would likely be called up to assist in this catastrophic emergency). The two equate to 2.3 million tons of food needed to feed your men and women in uniform for the next year. Since there is currently no [realistic or effective] plan in place beforehand: within three days (the time until current food runs out), you will need to find a way to provide 42,000+ metric tons of food to your troops, each and every week! Somehow, you will need to locate 42,000+ tons of food in a world where the civilians are killing each other over the last can of spam at their local grocery store. After you locate the food, you'll need to figure out how to subdivide, catalog, and coordinate transport to each military base sprinkled throughout this massive country without interstate trucking or civilian air transport.

You may be considering right now that, "you would need to appoint the perfect person for the task to start coordinating..." Remember, you have to do this without a cell phone or calling someone else for assistance, without using a computer or email, without civilian contracts, and without the aid of Google or asking the internet. Basically, you'd have to brainstorm the problem, figure it all out, hand write your plan of action on paper, somehow contact the appropriate people with the food (who also won't have functioning communication or data networks), somehow convince them to actually give you the precious food, and make this all happen using only military personnel and transportation (military personnel you can't reach by phone, and the limited transportation remaining that wasn't damaged or destroyed by the EMP, and without using precious diesel fuel which you ran out of after day three). That was just the food for the next seven days - the food for

a single week. Immediately, you'll need to try and locate another 42,000+ tons of food for the next week, and the next week, and then the week after that. You'll be performing this impossible task every single week for the foreseeable future in a country with finite food resources that are rapidly disappearing at an astonishing rate.

Oh, and I forgot to add, it will be impossible to maintain morale if you allow your troops to literally watch as their spouse and children slowly and painfully starve to death over a period of time while they are being fed themselves. If you desire to have any hopes of keeping your men on base, you must bring their families out of the chaos, looting, and rioting in the neighboring civilian towns and protect them by billeting them on base. Has anyone crunched the numbers on this and figured out if this is even possible with current base housing availability? Maybe one military family per bedroom? How will those living conditions without sewer and running water affect morale? The point is, you will need to find a way to feed the civilians on base as well. This adds an additional 1.3 million military spouses and 1.93 million children<sup>31</sup> to the 2.3 million military personnel I mentioned earlier. You now need to find, procure and distribute across country... [are you ready for this?] ...roughly 100,000+ metric tons of food each and every week, not the 42,000+ tons I mentioned earlier.

"The EMP just hit! You need to get started fixing the problem right now!" Ready...Set...Good luck with that!





## Feeding the Troops: The Wrong Answer to a Tough Problem - Partnership

In the previous exercise, I discussed numerous logistical issues with providing food to our military personnel after a grid-down event. Without having a very specific plan of action in place before the grid-down event: can we all admit that a single person (or team of people) tasked with locating, acquiring, distributing, and transporting 100k+ metric tons of food around the entire United States each and every week to various military installations is clearly not going to happen without electricity, open lines of communication, computer networks, dedicated fuel reserves, and assistance from civilian interstate trucking resources? If you are going to struggle to feed your own military personnel living on base, how does this affect the civilians living right next the base? The better question is, how are those civilians going to affect you?

Recently, I've been hearing about possible military plans for a base to partner with a neighboring city to try and create a small, hardened "micro-grid" that could supply electricity, water, and sewage to both the military base and the town after a grid down event. Currently, 99% of the military's electricity is supplied by the civilian electric grid. The idea of partnering with the public to tackle this tough problem seems to be the logical solution and something that seems to be gaining traction in various circles. But, is it such a great idea?

Let's assume that the plan of creating this partnership is even possible and an EMP-hardened microgrid is created. Let's just use Lackland AFB and the town of San Antonio, Texas as a random test subject for the partnership premise. Let's also assume that the leadership at Lackland AFB has been forward-thinking and had an emergency plan of action in place to feed their troops in a grid down event. Shortly after the EMP event, they start





flying cargo planes to [somewhere] for food. For the sake of argument, let's ignore the logistical arguments like, do the cargo planes even function? Is there enough fuel to sustain the weekly food delivery operation long-term? If using a neighboring country for food, what are we trading them if the US Dollar has collapsed and isn't worth anything on the world market? For now, let's just assume that everything in the plan works out perfectly. Forced to bring in all military personnel and their families that are currently living off-base, Lackland AFB has now grown from a population of 7,000 to over 10,000 men, women, and children... overnight.



Those 10,000 people will require about 200+ metric tons of food each week to feed everyone. Without the use of civilian trucking, I imagine that there will be a steady stream of cargo planes taking off and landing at the base to re-supply it. Do you think the civilians in San Antonio aren't going to notice those cargo planes taking off and landing? What happens after the first few days when the rioting and panic in San Antonio really ramps up and all the grocery stores are looted? What happens after the second week when all the looted food has been eaten and people are starting to go hungry? What happens after 30 days when

most people have been without any food for a week or longer? If the logistics of feeding the 10,000 people on base is daunting, how do you think the Mayor of San Antonio is doing acquiring food for the 2.5 million people that live in the SA metro area? Even if the hardened electric grid was up and running in that town, San Antonio is not an agricultural town. Where is all that food coming from? At some point in the very near future, those millions of people are going to be hungry. Where do you think they are going to show up begging, pleading, and demanding food?

What happens when 1% of the San Antonio population shows up at the front gates of Lackland AFB demanding food. That's 25,000 people at your gates. Even if it's only a couple thousand people at first, what are the rules of engagement for the security forces guarding the gate? Lackland AFB encompasses 7,000 acres of land, that's 70,000 linear feet of fence line to protect. How is that accomplished... by placing third-week basic trainees on the fence line with a weapon? Do you have enough weapons to go around? Again, what are the rules of engagement? What happens when you explain to the Mayor of San Antonio that you only have enough food to feed your own personnel when in truth, you are struggling just to keep those 10,000 people fed? Did you forget that the City of San Antonio is supplying your electricity, water, and sewage in that partnership of yours? What happens when they don't like your end of the partnership anymore? What happens when the mayor threatens to shut everything off if you don't help them feed the civilians and help maintain order in the city of 2.5 million? How far do you think the food supplies for 10,000 people will stretch when considering 2.5 million people are starving? Is that problem even possible to contain with only a couple thousand troops? Do you confiscate the local civilian critical infrastructure to maintain your electric, water, and sewer needs? What are the rules of engagement to do so?

Even if you were able to take over those facilities peacefully, how do you maintain all the electrical engineers, lineman, and all the other employees at the various utility companies? Those civilian button pushers and mechanical





and electrical engineers are the only ones who know how to fix and operate those civilian facilities. How do you keep them at their post? You'll likely need to offer them, and their families, food and security. You'll surely need to move them out of the chaos of downtown and onto Lackland AFB to achieve their food and security needs. Will they agree to come? Do you have the authority to demand they come? What percentage of that workforce do you need to secure to keep all that infrastructure functioning? Now you've just grown your base population by a couple thousand more mouths to feed. How do you get each of those button pushers to their position each and every day, a military escort for each group to each facility? What if you run out of fuel for those transportation vehicles (assuming they even function after the EMP)? What if the base is surrounded by thousands of people demanding food? How do you get through the picket lines and get those workers safely to and from their jobs? What are the rules of engagement for the escort squads? How do you protect the critical infrastructure throughout the city to prevent angry civilians from taking over a facility or taking military hostages in trade for food? Do you give in to their demands knowing that word will spread and hostage-taking could become a serious problem in trade for food? Is it even possible to protect all the infrastructure throughout the city that supplies the base with electricity, water, and sewage? What happens when someone shoots up one of the HV transformers in town with Pappy's deer rifle because they are so angry that you didn't feed them and their family is starving to death? Is any of this even possible or feasible? How is this partnership going to work in the long-term?

What happens when, during the first few days of the collapse, the Governor of Texas and the Mayor of San Antonio insist that you send in some of National Guard elements to help quell the rioting, looting, and panic downtown? How do you send troops into the midst of boiling cauldron of 2.5 million confused, hungry and angry people in town? How many troops do you send? Are active military troops allowed to help or assist with the National Guard mission inside the CONUS? Again, what are the rules of engagement in this situation? If you were able to get

inside the city within the first few days of the event, install martial law, and enforce a strict curfew, you might be successful in stopping the majority of social unrest. But, for how long? We already established that you can't feed the 2.5 million residents of San Antonio. It is just a matter of time until things get way out of hand.

When hunger and desperation set-in to the populace, your measly force of a couple of thousand troops will not be able to stem the tide of 2.5 million angry and well-armed Texans. Instead of the populace fighting amongst themselves, you've now provided a uniformed representative of the government for them to direct their anger and rage towards. If you send National Guard Troops into any major city in the US, and you don't fix the grid within a couple of days, you better get them out of there or things are going to go VERY badly for your men! What are the rules of engagement when you initially send your troops into the town? Do those rules of engagement change a week later when things get totally out of hand and the first bullets start to fly? How long do you wait to get your men and women out of that untenable situation? Do you wait until after the first major engagement resulting in casualties on both sides? Have you ever heard of "the shot heard 'round the world" and it's historical significance in this type of situation? How are a bunch of angry Texans going to react to civilians being killed in this type of situation (even if your men were acting in self-defense)? You will not be able to control messaging and how the story spreads. You must get your men out of harm's way. You will not be able to stem the tide of the coming chaos and destruction. Your best option is to keep uniformed troops out of the fray.







So, for the sake of argument, let's assume you were able to harden the San Antonio metro area (including Lackland AFB) into its own EMP-proof microgrid. Even if you could save the HV transformers and quickly reboot the overall electrical grid, what about all the actual electronics, equipment, factories and infrastructure that was destroyed by the E1 portion of the pulse? Even with a functioning electric grid, what percentage of the electronics inside the city and other critical infrastructure were destroyed? Let's assume there was a plan and all these challenges could be overcome quickly. We already postulated that Lackland AFB leadership had a plan in place to supply food to its troops in a grid down event. Now let's speculate that San Antonio had a similar plan in place to provide immediate and long-term food for its 2.5 million residents. Without interstate trucking and access to food deliveries from outside of San Antonio, I don't believe the logistics of that are even possible, but we'll pretend it is. The country is hit by an EMP. After a few days of chaos, San Antonio and Lackland AFB have a functioning electric grid, water supply, and sewage system.

Next, let's suspend reality again and pretend that before the national electric grid came down, San Antonio had a secret barter agreement with the Country of [Costa Rica] to purchase grain and food in trade for [some asset or resource that San Antonio owns or has access to]. The (surprisingly EMP-proof) C-5 and C-17 transports are flying day and night to transport the supplies back and forth and you somehow never run out of fuel to keep those planes operational. Hooray for public/private partnership. What could possibly go wrong?

There are 7 million people living in Houston to your east, 2 million people in Austin just north of you, and a million or so people to your south living in Corpus Christi and Laredo. We might as well add the 7 million people in the Dallas/Fort Worth area because it's only a four-hour drive from San Antonio. What do you think is going to happen when all those people start to catch wind that you have food, fresh water, electricity and don't forget air conditioning in South Texas? Where do you think all those other hungry and starving Texans are going to migrate? There are easily over

30 million people that live within a six-hour drive (or a couple day's walk) of San Antonio and Lackland AFB. In a dark world, do you think the shining beacon of lights from your town will be ignored? Word will spread like wildfire.

After a time, you could start to see refugees from all corners of the US. What happens when hundreds, thousands, or after a short time, likely tens of thousands of starving and desperate new people show up at the city gates every day? Oh yeah, San Antonio doesn't have gates... or a perimeter fence for that matter. How do you keep millions of people from just walking into town and eating your townspeople's food? You only have enough resources coming in to feed 2.5 million people. The San Antonio city center (not metro) is 298,000 square acres. That is equivalent to 450,000 linear feet of perimeter to guard, without a fence or wall, with potentially millions of people trying to sneak in. How is it even logistically possible to guard that perimeter? Again... what are the rules of engagement? What happens when the governor of Texas wants to take over and utilize your town's finite resources to assist the rest of the state? Does the town of San Antonio declare its own sovereignty and independence from the State of Texas? What happens when the Federal government wants to move in and use your "Shining City on the Hill" as the new central operations center for the entire United States and run its operations from there?





I realize we are now entering the territory of the absurd. But are we? What are the ramifications of having a military base partner with a neighboring town to create a hardened microgrid? I realize that the idea might have been just theoretical, but before we start moving in that direction, shouldn't we at least question and address some of these issues. Even if you were to duplicate the system in a dozen different locations, you'd still have the same major problems. Mainly, the bulk of the 300+ million Americans that will quickly begin to starve to death and take each and every

opportunity to gain access to food. Shouldn't these same types of questions be broached for any type of post-collapse planning? Unfortunately, I fear this is a short-term solution to a problem that is demonstrably long-term!

If we can't harden the HV transformers and critical components of the electric grid before we are attacked, that way a piecemeal recovery can begin within a week or two, I'm not so sure a feasible plan for continuity of government is even possible...





## A Thought Exercise for Civilian Emergency Planners:

### Who is even going to show up for work in a nationwide grid down event?

I've seen a certain large utilities company's Emergency Planning Report for "catastrophic events" where their first step on day one was(paraphrased):

Initiate emergency phone roster – Instruct all senior management to meet at [their headquarters] Conference Room B. Immediately contact all personnel and inform them to initiate a response plan.

Step one is making a huge assumption that cell phones and the landline phone networks will be operable at the time. If so, who is the person responsible for performing

all the calls? What if it happened in non-business hours and no one was at the office? Does the responsible party have every employee's phone number programmed into their own personal cell phone? I'd be willing to bet that agency's emergency call roster is on someone's computer at the office that can't be accessed without electricity or the computer could be fried. But let's assume the phones weren't fried, the cell networks were still functioning and the phone networks were not overloaded with emergency calls... and they had paper copies of everyone's employment forms (not likely as this is all kept electronically now, and not in a metal file







cabinet like twenty years ago), and then we'll postulate that the employees actually answered their phone at 2 am and were able to receive their instructions to come in to work... (I think we better just hope we get lucky and the EMP event happens in the middle of the afternoon while everyone is already at work.)

How many personnel do they believe are realistically going to show up where and when needed? This organization's headquarters was located in a major metropolitan city. Some of their personnel may not be home at the time of the event and be walking across town just to get home because of inoperable and abandoned vehicles blocking roadways, non-functioning streetlights, and a general grid-lock of traffic in their large city. The leadership, likely wouldn't be able to make it into their headquarter's "Conference Room B". If they work for the said emergency planning department at the utility company, the senior management and head engineers will likely have a fairly good idea of what's really going on or at least a general idea of the severity of the situation. Do you really think those individuals are going to immediately head into work when called? More than likely they'll start thinking about their immediate and extended family members and put their personal needs before the company's needs. That's just human nature.

They will start asking themselves the following questions. "My small child could be (is likely) stuck at their elementary school without transportation home. My wife works twenty miles outside of town. Is she going to stay there or is she going to try and walk home? What if she doesn't show up or I can't find her? My elderly father is in a nursing home and needs his ventilator. How is he doing? Has my father died already? Where should I go and who should I check on first?" There will be a million questions, concerns, and fears running through that employee's mind. There will be a million personal tasks that employee will likely feel are more important to accomplish than immediately going in to work to help "other" people and abandon his wife, kids, and extended family to fend for themselves. This

is the "Human Factor" that most EMP/CME planning fails to take into consideration.

I'm not just hypothesizing. I've never done a formal poll, but over the years, I have asked hundreds of healthcare workers, policemen, military members, firefighters, and other first responders "What would you do if the electric grid was destroyed and chaos ensued?" Most of them stated they would finish their shift and go home. Some would leave immediately. Most said they would have reservations about showing up the next day for their shift. Most cited their reasoning that they wouldn't be able to perform their job effectively without electricity.

I always follow that up with "What if things really started to fall apart after day two or three and there was some rioting and looting beginning to take place. Would you still consider going in to work?" EVERY single person that I have ever asked that question to, has responded with an emphatic, "No!" They would stay home with their family, and if things got worse, some would leave town to stay with out of town, rural family. I have never, not once, been told they would put their critical job as a first responder (or National Guardsman) before their family's safety and leave them unprotected at home.



Now I realize that was not a scientific poll. I couldn't provide a number to the people I've asked these questions, but it's been a lot. I am still waiting to meet that most-honorable, self-sacrificing employee who is willing to put his family's safety at risk in order to show up for their shift at work.



## How Would a Grid-Down Scenario Affect You Personally?

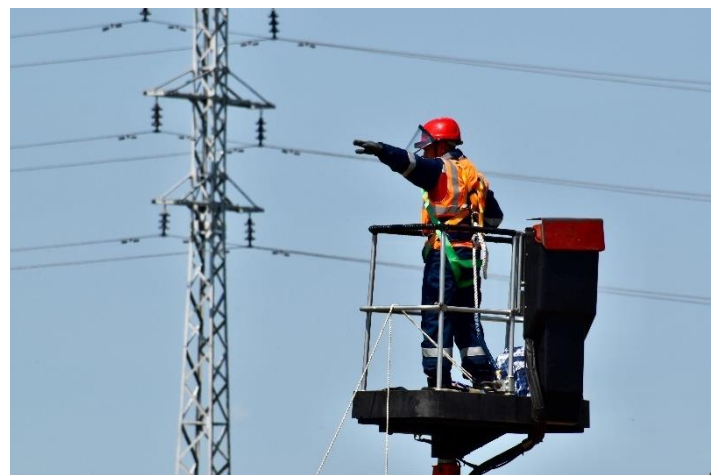
Excerpt from Jonathan Hollerman's book, *Survival Theory*.<sup>32</sup>

How long do you suppose the food in your pantry will last? Most Americans go to the grocery store every three days. Let's assume you eventually eat the boxes of uncooked food raw (you will once you're hungry enough). With rationing, most households might have enough food for one to two weeks. A tiny minority may have canned food to last them a bit longer or have looted their local grocery store before the masses arrived (within 48-72 hours) to clean it out. Only ma and pa stores may open their doors and then they will only take cash (for a few days, or until they realize the power isn't coming back on). Unlike some popular post-apocalypse books on the subject, major supermarket chains will not be open for business. The managers have no vested interest in the stores, which are owned by some vast, faceless corporation in another state. Employees aren't going to show up for work without lighting in the windowless stores and the cash registers not functioning. Once the food is looted, there is no resupply coming.

Most people don't realize how the food supply in this country has radically changed over the last 100 years (especially in the last 10 years). A century ago, most people, even "city folk," grew and preserved a good portion of their daily food. Today, very few people garden and the ones who do consume it as it grows. Very few Americans know how to can or preserve fruits and vegetables to last through winter. With the introduction of electricity and food on demand at your supermarket, the skills needed to live without electricity have been completely lost to 99.9% of Americans. Even most of today's older generations grew up with electricity. With the help of computers, we now have a "just in time" delivery system. In other words, food is grown, canned, and resupplied to the grocery shelves as fast as it is taken off. There are no great towers of grain like in ancient Egyptian

days. If you stop the growth, canning, and resupply, it won't be long till ALL the food in this country is completely gone.

Most supermarkets don't operate storerooms anymore or stock much in the back room like they did 20 years ago. Have you ever asked your local supermarket employee to check the back room for something they are out of? They look at you like you're stupid and then pretend to go in the back only to return a minute later and tell you "it's all out on the shelves." Most supermarkets get two to three truck deliveries per week to keep their shelves stocked. In the modern world (with electricity and computers), when you buy a can of beans at your local store, the checkout computer tells the warehouse to put another can of beans on the next truck. The warehouse's computer then tells the distribution center's computer that they need another can of beans on the next truck. The distribution center's computer tells the canning factory's computer they need another can of beans to be sent on the next truck delivery. The canning facility computer then emails the farm in Mexico that it needs more raw beans on the next available truck. What are the two common denominators in all those steps? The computers can't communicate with each other and the trucks can't drive across the country because of traffic jams and the gas stations don't have electricity to run their pumps. This is true with every item you buy at every store you visit. Interstate commerce completely shuts down and you will not be able to buy ANYTHING you need to survive once the store's current supply runs out or gets looted.





You would have no money outside of what is in your wallet or safe. Our entire finance industry is run by electricity. Most people have no clue that the average bank branch has less than \$10,000 on hand at a given time. I wanted to pay cash (\$9,000) for an older EMP-proof Jeep a while back and my bank told me I would have to schedule that size withdrawal in advance and it would take the bank three days to get it. If you can't get quick access to your money at the bank pre-SHTF, what makes you think you're going to get your money out after things have fallen apart? My bet is that the banks aren't even going to open their doors once the grid goes down. They know people are panicking and they don't have the cash on hand to give to them (most of whom will want to drain their accounts). Besides, every bank I know of uses computers and electricity to perform bank transactions. There is no electricity, remember? You were a millionaire before the crash? Not anymore. Don't bet on a single bank opening its doors for business. Also, don't rely on storing up large amounts of gold and silver for a grid-down scenario. No one is going to trade your precious food for your gold or silver coins. It will be years before there is any

semblance of normal commerce where you can use precious metals to barter for tools or food. I would recommend spending whatever cash on hand you have in the first few days getting as much food as possible. Within a week, once store owners (the very few with heavy security that hasn't been looted already) figure out that the power isn't coming back on, your money is worthless. A hungry person isn't going to trade you a can of beans for a thousand dollars.

There would be no communication with those who live farther away from you than earshot. In other words: no phones, no emails, no mail delivery, no Facebook, and no Twitter. Are you getting the picture? Think about all the family and loved ones that have moved away. Do you have a sibling in California? Do you have a son or daughter at college in Texas? You'll probably never see them or speak to them again. If someone breaks into your house looking for food, how are you going to call for help (not that the police would be able to respond anyway)?







There will be no emergency services. Police, firefighters, and the National Guard will all be in the same scenario as you are. There will be no way to contact them, their vehicles will quickly run out of fuel and the traffic jams will pen them in just like you. They are just everyday people like you and me. Once the looting begins, most will rush home to be with their families and protect them from the rioters and home invasions. Very few will show up to work on day three. Some of the more honorable, single men may stay at their post for a while and try to help out, but within days of the grid going down, don't expect to see any emergency services. You will likely see the same result with National Guardsmen who are typically activated via a phone roster. Most will not be reached and most will not report for duty or will go AWOL to protect their family once things go south. Again, in a crisis situation, they will put the safety of their family before orders from their superiors. Even active duty military will experience a huge amount of AWOL soldiers heading home to protect loved ones and family. However, a good portion of their families live on base and they will be available for duty. Even so, as I explained earlier, the military bases WILL NOT be able to perform disaster relief because the military is dependent on the civilian electric grid. While they may have a few thousand MRE's on hand, their food situation is the same as yours. It's eventually going to run out. Law and order may last a while longer on military bases with possible C130 shipments of food from international aid, but eventually, the big bases will dissolve into rioting and looting just like the big cities.

There are no hospitals or medicine. Most hospitals are only required to have a one or two day supply of backup electricity. Once they run out, loved ones on life support will die. Hospitals will be flooded with emergencies and injuries related to people doing stupid things out of their normal routine. How many nurses and doctors will stay more than a few days without going home to check on their families and protect them from the looters? Without the ability to get resupplied, the hospitals will soon run out of bandages and the like. How long before the doctors and nurses throw up their hands in despair with their inability to help an ever-increasing number of patients and head home?

You need a prescription to survive? Guess what, almost twenty percent of America's population do as well. This includes everyone who suffers from asthma to diabetes. The drug stores will be closed because they have no way to verify prescriptions or check you out with non-functioning cash registers. How long before the tweakers and heroin addicts raid your local pharmacy because there are no security cameras and no way for the police to respond? How long will the vials of medicine you so desperately need last without refrigeration once the electric grid goes down? If your child requires medication and you haven't stockpiled or are unwilling to risk looting your local pharmacy, then you will know exactly when that child will die.... shortly after his or her current supply of medicine runs out.



Your house will not protect you as it has in the past. There will be no A/C or heat in your home. If you live in an area of the country that has cold winters or hot summers, life will become very uncomfortable and deadly in some cases. A lot of malnourished people, not thinking clearly, will resort



to doing incredibly stupid things to get warm, like start a fire in their house or burn a charcoal grill indoors. In urban areas with row houses and large apartment buildings, you will likely see large out-of-control fires burning whole city blocks because one person does something dumb and there are no fire trucks (out of gas) to come and put the fires out. Besides, there's going to be no water pressure at the fire hydrants even if they could get there. You could actually see whole sections of large cities burn to the ground with no way to stop the flames. Do you know how to stay warm in your home once the thermostat drops below freezing? Many people will go to bed and not wake up the next morning. Also, a lot of people watch action movies and think they can hide behind a door or wall to be protected from someone who is shooting at them. This is not accurate. Most bullets will travel through multiple walls until they hit a stud or two. Your home is NOT bulletproof! Ducking down below your window in a firefight with your starving neighbors will not protect you from their bullets.

If you rely on city sewage, it will likely back up into your home over time. Raw sewage could start bubbling out of

your sinks and tubs as people continue to use toilets and sinks even though the sewage facility isn't operating. This will create dangerously high levels of methane in your home that could make you very sick. Because of poor sanitary conditions around the country and most people not cleaning their hands properly before cooking due to lack of water, Dysentery and Cholera will become major pandemics in this country with a lot of people getting sick and dying. Regular baths will become a thing of the past, and many people will start bathing in their local creek or water source, causing dangerous bacteria to float downstream where other families rely on the same water source for drinking.

Don't rely on your vehicle getting you out of Dodge. In the event of a Super-EMP, a large number of cars will come to a stop in the middle of the street. Even if they don't, a lot of people will try to flee the cities on empty gas tanks causing massive traffic jams. It only takes a handful of cars to run out of gas on the roadways to completely block traffic. If you do not flee town within 24 hours of the grid going down, you are likely to find yourself penned in. If you have a vehicle that is running, it will only run if you can get fuel for it. Most gas





stations don't have back-up generators. The ones that do will be quickly overrun and emptied. There is no way to resupply them because the trucks rely on the gas stations to get the fuel to other gas stations. Even if they could be rigged to resupply from their own tanks, don't forget that there are massive traffic jams all over the country. Even if they could work out the details, very few truckers are going to leave their families behind unprotected while they travel across the country with rioters and looters everywhere. Oil refineries take massive amounts of electricity to operate and will not be operational any time soon. What about the nation's precious fuel reserves? If you don't think the government is going to confiscate that for military and government use, I have oceanfront property in Arizona I'd like to sell you. There will be no refueling shortly after the grid goes down. If you were a forward thinker and have a large supply of fuel for your vehicle, I would only recommend using it for the first few days. After a week, most cars will be out of gas and people will be desperate for a running vehicle to get them where they need to go. If you are driving one of the few cars on the roadways, YOU ARE A TARGET. I wouldn't start using the vehicle again for a full year (after most of the starving masses are dead).

You will not have lights once it grows dark outside. I understand that you may have a flashlight and some candles at your house, but honestly, how long will your batteries and candles last? I would use them very sparingly for a couple of reasons. With no streetlights or ambient light in the cities, nighttime will become a very dark and dangerous place to find yourself outdoors, and light attracts attention. If you do have a large supply of batteries or candles, use them very carefully. Two weeks in, once people start getting hungry and desperate, lights coming from a house will be a huge beacon for looters and home invaders who will use the cover of darkness for their nefarious activities. Most people have never been to the mountains on a backpacking trip. On a cloudy dark night, you can see someone smoking a cigarette on the next mountain over. In a perfectly dark city, light escaping from around the edge of your blinds or curtains will be seen from a long way off. In a grid-down situation, you want to rise with the sun and go to bed once it gets dark,

utilizing natural light and conserving flashlights and candles for emergencies.

These are just a FEW of the ways your life would be impacted by the electric grid going dark.

Next, let me paint a picture for you on how difficult it would be to just procure water.

For the last seventy-five years, you turn a faucet and a seemingly endless supply of crystal clear water comes pouring out to drink, cook, and bath with. It's always been that way and that's all contemporary Americans have ever known. Most Americans don't even realize that half of the world's population will never enjoy that luxury...but I digress. That endless water supply stops within hours of the grid going down, and I'd guess many of you've probably never pondered the logistics behind gathering and purifying your own water. Please don't get lazy when it comes to purifying your water. If you do, you will eventually get sick or die from waterborne viruses, bacteria, or parasites. It's only a matter of time.

Depending on your home's location in relevance to your local water tower, your house could lose water pressure within minutes or hours. Due to the extreme amounts of electricity used to process and pump water into the water tower for the average town, most cities do not have backup generators for this. The ones that do will only last for a few hours to a day at most. If you live in the country and have a well, did you know that typically your well pump operates on 220 volts of electricity? Your water stops instantly unless you are one of the lucky few who have a backup diesel generator or similar power source.

Now, how much fuel do you have stored? FEMA estimates that the average person with a backup generator has less than 5 gallons of fuel on hand at a given time. Even





if you have more, you're going to run out at some point. Also, gas and diesel generators are extremely noisy, letting every starving person within a mile know you have electricity. What if you live in the Southwest? To put it politely, you're probably going to be dead soon. Deserts were never meant to be inhabited for obvious reasons and only electricity and our modern infrastructure allowed us to live there in comfort. The Nomads throughout the centuries who traveled the world's deserts had life skills available to them that we both know you don't possess.



For those of you who live in areas where you have nearby streams or other water sources, do you know how to purify your water? Let's assume you do. You are going to

soon run out of bleach drops and iodine tablets or your purification cartridge will eventually get clogged. You are now a week or more into a grid-down situation and you are going to have to boil your water just like everyone else did for the last 3,000 years. How far away do you think starving and desperate people can see and smell your fire? Farther than you think. On the plus side, your shoulder muscles are going to be huge from carrying five-gallon buckets of water from the nearest stream back to your home. Sounds like fun, right? You are eventually going to need to take a bath. How many five gallon buckets does it take to fill up a bath for each member of your family? Think about it.

Next, do you know how to start a fire in the rain to boil the water? You do... great! How much firewood do you need to have on hand to build a fire and boil water twice each day? If you have any firewood at all, it will probably be gone faster than you think. Do you have a large saw or ax to cut down a dead tree and how many dead trees do you think you have close by your home? How far will you eventually have to travel to find firewood? Can you physically cut the tree down and then bolt it up into six-foot sections and then carry the logs long distances back to your house only to cut the long logs into sixteen-inch lengths? You are still not done. Have you ever split wood before? Are you proficient enough to do it without sticking the ax in your shin when you miss the log you are aiming at because you are physically exhausted and weak from hunger? Hospitals will be overrun and most won't be operating without electricity or supplies after day five or six. I hope that deep cut doesn't get infected or you'll lose the leg and you'll probably die from the infection. But again, I digress...

So far, we have only been discussing water. Let's add in the fact that you were a bargain shopper and have a stockpile of canned goods from Costco in your basement. Maybe you were really prepared and had some long-term food storage for your family. What happens when you spend a lot of time being noisy and walking around your neighborhood procuring firewood to boil your water and cook your food? What happens when your sick neighbors see you and show up for some heat by your fire and begging



for water because they don't have the tools, energy, or ability to purify it on their own? Okay, it's only water, so you help them out and give them some because you are a nice human. Good for you; you have now guaranteed that they will be back the next day probably with a couple other loved ones or neighbors from down the street who saw the smoke plume from your fire. I'm also willing to bet those same people weren't forward thinkers like yourself and they have long ago run out of food. They are literally eating pine cones from their driveway at this point (no joke).

With no chances of getting resupplied, are you going to give your hungry neighbor some of your child's food? That was nice of you. I guarantee they are coming back for more water and food every single day until you run out of supplies or the energy to help them. If you refuse them from the get-go, they will probably beg and cry for help. They will even use their sick baby or elderly mother to play on your heartstrings. How heartless are you? If you still refuse, that neighbor (who you've had a beer with on multiple occasions and borrowed a mower from a time or two) with a hungry and thirsty family down the street will get mad and demand you help them. He may even try to fight you. So, you scare or beat him off with a piece of log you were just splitting.

How long do you think it will be until your neighbor is sick and desperate enough to return with his Pappy's shotgun to take your water and food by force because his kids are literally starving and dying before his eyes? In his weak mental state, he will resent you for not suffering like he is and would rather kill you than watch his family starve to death. Oh...so you have a battle rifle and you defend yourself, killing your neighbor and leaving his sick and starving wife and kids (your son's best friend) without someone to protect them. It was justified. He pointed the gun at you first...I understand. Good luck sleeping for the next month with those images floating around in your head.

Now the rest of your neighbors are ticked off at your "selfishness" and gang up on you with multiple handguns and rifles. Okay, so you are John Rambo incarnate with an arsenal that would make a militia proud and you fight them all off without getting shot a single time. Good for you. More

sleepless nights full of nightmares (ask any soldier). How many people do you think heard that gunfight? Take out a map and make a one-mile circle around your location point. What percentage of those starving people might think that someone with a gun has something that is valuable and worth protecting? How many of those starving people will eventually come for your stuff hoping to take you off guard at some point? Can you stay awake every waking hour to protect your family? You have to sleep sometime or you won't have the energy to chop more wood tomorrow.



What happens when the bad guys show up while you are out cutting wood? Is your wife just as John Rambo as you are with an AR-15? Did you ever buy her the Tacticool plate carrier with ballistic plates that you wear when you are out of the house? Could she fight off a dozen rednecks with deer rifles without getting shot in the melee? Let's be honest, probably not. Instead of killing your wife, maybe they just watch you each morning till you head down to the creek for more water. Maybe they post up in your dead neighbor's house waiting for you to step outside and weed your garden in the back yard. You are hungry, sore, and exhausted at this point. Are you alert enough to see that man with the deer rifle a hundred yards away hidden under some garbage bags? Probably not. What becomes of your beautiful wife and daughter then? What will their life resort to after their food is gone? What will they have to do to survive? Do you think I'm being vulgar or gross? If so, I'd say you are being





naive. Outside of the GI Jane types, most women without protection in this type of society will use what they have to survive. Look at history and some of the horrific things done to women by the Russians and Germans during World War II. Those are events that people don't usually discuss in history class or make movies about, but they still happened.

What I'm trying to show you here is how impossible it will be to survive in a suburban area after the grid goes down. Even if you are in a smaller suburb of thirty thousand upscale people, how many rounds of ammunition do you have? Ninety-five percent of the country will soon be starving, sick, and desperate. They will resent anybody who is not suffering with them. It's just human nature. PLEASE do not listen to the survival experts who will try and help you "fortify" your home or apartment and show you how to successfully ride out the storm in town. If you follow their advice, I can almost guarantee you will be dead within a month. I would also be very leery of the same type of survival experts who

recommend you band together with your neighbors and fortify your cul-de-sac. Here is why. Most likely, even with all their big talk, your neighbors haven't taken the threat nearly as serious as you have. Most of them won't have nearly the supplies and long term food that they brag about.

What about all the other neighbors who weren't part of your planning group but live on your street? You're going to need their help to protect the cul-de-sac and work together for food gathering missions, growing crops, security, wood gathering, etc. Guess what? You are feeding them now as well. If you have \$100k in long-term food reserves, then this scenario may work out for you. But in all likelihood, your neighbors will help you eat your family's food supply in a month and then you will starve to death through the first winter just like they do. Do you seriously think you are going to keep your food from them because it's "yours" and you paid for it before the collapse? You may for a short while. Eventually, they will be starving and your family won't be.





THEY WILL NOTICE AND THEY WILL COME FOR YOUR FOOD EVENTUALLY. I don't care how close you are to them or what kind of "agreements" your little band of survivors has in place. All that goes out the window when blue-collar Jerry watches one of his little girls die of starvation. Blue-collar, church elder, and your fun-loving neighbor, Jerry has just become a starving, desperate, irrational, natural born killer and you are going to take the brunt of his anger before he watches his other child die a slow and painful death. DO NOT underestimate a starving and desperate person regardless of his personality before the collapse. Hungry people make absolutely crazy and uncharacteristic choices. Trust me; I've seen it firsthand with highly-trained soldiers in the field who have gone only days without food. We are talking about civilians with no training and no food for weeks or months. Most will literally become half-crazed walking zombies with one mission...food.

A lot of the "experts" will say I am fearmongering or exaggerating how bad it will be. They say Americans will work together and will get through it. They do not understand human suffering and have no experience in dealing with starving people. Starving Americans will act no different than starving people in the Congo or Mogadishu. In fact, they will likely act much worse. Americans (even the poor) have never seen true hunger or been actively starving regardless of how the media portray them. America's "poor" eat better than 80% of the world's population. They didn't grow up without food like people in certain parts of Africa or China. Americans and their entitlement mentalities will be VICIOUSLY ANGRY when they get hungry. They will have no experience or idea how to deal with the mental hallucinations brought on by hunger pains and most will resort to anger and violence. Looting, raping, and pillaging will become the norm. It will be straight *Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome* and eventually like the movie *The Postman*. I

don't care if they fix the electric grid a year later. Most Americans will be dead and the only ones left will be the survivalists, the extremely lucky, the larger well-organized gangs of looters, and the strongest and most brutal of men who left their souls at the gate and did horrible things to survive. Who are they going to fix the grid for? Are we all going to forget what has transpired and go back to driving our Priuses to work at Starbucks? Are you going to get the warlords to give up their positions of power among their men and their harems of sexual slave girls? The day the electric grid goes down, America as a civilized nation ceases to exist.

You need to understand that life after the grid going dark will probably be ten times worse than I am describing. There will be 300+ million Americans facing the same horrific questions as you. Where do I go? What do I do? It is vital that you understand and accept that the following is true: A few weeks after a grid-down scenario, there will be hundreds of millions of starving people wandering around the country desperately fighting over every last scrap of food. A month or two after the grid going down, most Americans will be violently sick from food deprivation and other illnesses.



THE AVERAGE DESPERATE AND STARVING AMERICAN WILL KILL YOU IF YOU HAVE FOOD AND THEY FIND YOU. I don't care how protected you think your home is. You will eventually be overrun!

# Major Points to Consider



These are the authors recommendations following his invitation to the Electromagnetic Defense Task Force 2.0 at the Lemay Wargaming Center – Maxwell AFB, LA, 2019.

1. Before making any plans, your planners must know and understand the operating environment. Researching the psychology of human desperation, starvation, and living WROL is vital to every emergency planner especially when planning for a long-term grid-down scenario.
2. If you don't feed and provide a relatively safe environment for the people in your plan of action, including their immediate families, your plan has ZERO chance of success! A long-term plan to keep your personnel fed is vital to every plan of action. I would also consider developing a housing plan at the same time, and where you plan to billet all your personnel. Do you have the space for everyone including their families?
3. While I agree that the main focus of a grid-down emergency plan must revolve around the first week or two when the operating environment is the least dangerous, don't ignore the chaos of the near future when building those plans. Don't put yourself in a situation to lose resources or men or make decisions you can't reverse once things have fallen apart beyond your control.
4. I've heard discussions and read reports about potential Black Start Teams that will assist civilian companies in restarting certain power facilities that power critical bases. While I think that is a logical and wise idea, I think those plans should include three additional teams (East Coast, West Coast, and Texas) with access to functioning helicopters. The three teams should consist of HV transformer engineers and a small security team. Each team should have a plan to fly to 20-30 pre-determined HV transformers in critical locations and inspect them for damage. This has been a major point of contention between the EMP commission and EPRI. I feel it is absolutely VITAL to know within a day or two whether or not we are talking about a short-term grid-down event that can be patched up in a few weeks or we suffered massive losses to our HV transformers and it's going to be a long-term grid down event. I'm not sure there is a more critical piece of information you will need to know within a day or two of the event!
5. Based on the information the teams from the previous point provide – I think it is imperative that our military and government have two plans of response. If it is discovered that the damage will result in a short-term grid-down event, treat it like any other natural disaster and continue in your current planning. If it's going to be a long-term event, you need to have a TS "Plan B" to maintain continuity of government and military. This plan must have presidential authority and military backing behind it. It must realistically use traditional triage techniques to save what resources can be saved and abandon those that can't realistically be saved. Massive furloughs of uncritical or unneeded personnel should be considered. Immediately relocating critical personnel to rural bases away from large population areas would also be important. Control of areas with large grain bins and other mass food infrastructure should be considered.
6. Please! Someone needs to light a fire under the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and get those problems resolved or none of these other plans matter. The backup diesel generators need to be hardened immediately. They need to have a plan to safeguard their critical employees' families, house them, and protect them on location. If you think the

critical “button-pushers” and “lever-pullers” at the nuclear facilities are going to stay at the facility long-term without their families present, I have ocean front property in Arizona to sell you. I realize that require a large number of background checks for family members, but it needs to happen.

7. Especially on the civilian government side, better vetting needs to be done at the various grid down conferences that happen regularly throughout the country. Some of the subject matter experts on preparedness that are brought in to discuss the threat and the aftermath, don’t have the valid credentials or life experience to speak on the topic. They regularly offer very bad and oftentimes deadly preparedness advice and planning ideas to those in attendance.
8. Short of the military writing a blank check to the electric utility companies to fix this problem, what is the plan to raise awareness or the funds to pay for hardening the grid? I believe the only realistic way to get the American people educated on the threat and push their representatives to act is via a major motion picture with a big budget cast. I believe that it needs to be truly shocking in nature and show in living color some of the atrocities that will happen in a modern technology-dependent country when it loses electricity. I think the more disturbing and “fearmongering” the better (without sacrificing accurate realism or ruining your credibility). I am convinced that this is the ONLY way you will ever get this problem resolved and the politicians in government to write the check to fix it. Right now, they have no urgency to act as the American people don’t even realize a year without electricity is even a possibility. The electric utility industry has proven, especially with the latest EPRI release, that they have ZERO intention of doing this themselves or raising electric rates to pay for hardening the grid.
9. Conduct a blind and anonymous poll to discover what percentage of troops or emergency personnel may desert. How can you make an effective plan if you don’t know how many of your personnel will stay at their position?





# Appendix



## Polling Example:

How many troops or emergency personnel will you be able to retain? In truth, you don't really know because you've likely never asked your men or polled the question. I would recommend every emergency response agency conduct a blind (anonymous) poll on this. It's imperative that you lay out realistic parameters. Explain the horrible situation in detail:

"There has been an EMP attack, a week past. Reports are coming in that things are starting to *really* fall apart nationally. Mass rioting and chaos in every major city. Americans are killing Americans over every last scrap of food. The agency (or military base) you work for is starting to crumble and there is indecision and insubordination brewing in the ranks. Rumors are spreading that it may be a full year without electricity, but no one really seems to know what's going on. Your [relief] mission is stalled because very little of your agency's equipment works. For the equipment that *did* function, your agency ran out of fuel for the generators days ago and now everyone is just sitting around. Your agency also ran out of food two days ago and you are really hungry. There is no guarantee they will get more food delivered. Many of your peers have started to desert and head home. This morning you received word that the city where your family lives has experienced massive fires which are spreading.

### What do you do?

1. Stay in place and continue to support the mission to the best of your ability, or
2. Leave and try to get home to check on and support your family members."

I think many would be shocked by the response of their personnel to that type of question. I also think it may be a bit skewed as a good percentage of those that answered they would stay, would probably leave as the situation digressed.

# Bio

## Jonathan Hollerman



- ⇒ Jonathan Hollerman is a former USAF S.E.R.E. Instructor (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape) and a foremost expert in survival and preparedness.
- ⇒ Author of the #1 Bestseller, *Survival Theory: A Preparedness Guide*
- ⇒ Hollerman owns and operates Grid Down Consulting, where he offers his services as an Emergency Preparedness Consultant. While most of his time is spent traveling the country, performing on-site analysis of existing survival retreats, his primary specialty is in "Survival Retreat Design" - building and designing off-grid infrastructure and multi-million-dollar survival retreat compounds.
- ⇒ Author of the #3 bestselling "EMP: Equipping Modern Patriots" series.
- ⇒ Jonathan is currently in talks with Discovery Channel in reference to a potential TV show on preparedness. The Daily Mail penned an article on Grid Down Consulting which spent days on The Drudge Report. Hollerman has been a guest on numerous talk shows, podcasts, and industry-related interviews. He has also published frequent articles at the behest of some of the largest emergency preparedness websites online. He was hired by The Survival Summit to film an Instructional DVD called, *Survival Bug Out*. Jonathan is currently pursuing the expansion of his consulting business into designing corporate retreat compounds for Fortune 500 companies while partnering with a Cyber Security Firm in Washington DC.

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<sup>28</sup> <https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/11/17/rethinking-shermans-march/>

<sup>29</sup> [https://www.answers.com/O/What\\_disease\\_killed\\_the\\_most\\_soldiers\\_during\\_the\\_Civil\\_War](https://www.answers.com/O/What_disease_killed_the_most_soldiers_during_the_Civil_War)

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.inverse.com/article/38623-pounds-of-food-united-states-calories>

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