

GIMME SHELTER

'THE LOWDOWN' TAKES ON HOMELAND SECURITY



Preparing Makes Sense. Get Ready Now.

The likelihood that you and your family will survive a house fire depends as much on having a working smoke detector and an exit strategy as on a well-trained fire department. The same is true for surviving a terrorist attack. We must have the tools and plans in place to make it on our own, at least for a period of time, no matter where we are when disaster strikes. Just like having a working smoke detector, preparing for the unlikely makes sense.

-Yellow Pages Homeland Security Guide



By The LowDown Homeland Security Department

My friends had been telling me about this story for nearly a year. They kept babbling something about, “the yellow pages and homeland security, and something about the shelf life of malt liquor vs. beer”.

Then I decided to check, and there on the outside cover of the June 2004 SBC Yellow Pages, in the upper right-hand corner, a small tab read, “Homeland Security Guide, see ‘H’ for Homeland Security.” Sure enough, in the ‘H’ section there were two calming and informative pages on how to prepare for a terrorist attack.

However, one year later, in the June 2005 Yellow Pages the two-page survival guide had been pulled. Had we rounded up the last Terrorist? Had we been downgraded to fear code green? Was the 2004 instruction guide nothing more than filler? Whatever the reason, our flimsy ladder to safety had been replaced with this simple blurb, “For Homeland Security Information call 1-800-Be-Ready or go to www.ready.gov.” As a friend pointed out, this is helpful information because in the case of a major terrorist attack, I’m sure the phone lines and internet services would still be up and running.

Since your yellow pages no longer provide you with the comprehensive information you need to survive, The LowDown Homeland Security Department, as a community service, decided to help you out with a list of our own survival tips.

In the Yellow Pages the first step is to make an emergency supply kit. Although their authors had a few good points, they forgot a few of the essentials.

Their list:

- One-gallon of water per person, per day.
- Extra canned and dried foods.
- Flashlight, radio, batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Duct tape, and plastic to cover windows; filter masks.

Our list:

- Although water is a good idea, In the case of a major terrorist attack (especially if it were all the way up in Tahoe) I think I’d like to have a few cases of beer on hand. Wine and or liquor wouldn’t be a bad addition. Something to ease those nerves.
- Why buy canned foods when you can just raid all of the vacation homes in your area? They’re only up here once in awhile to ride their snowblades any ways, and slower than usual traffic should buy you the extra time you need to find your favorite canned goodies. Don’t forget to check their liquor cabinet. Unlike the true Tahoe locals, they probably have something besides Jim Beam, Jager, and PBR. There are plenty of “supply centers” in your area.
- Forget a flashlight and batteries, Ipods are so hot this year.
- First aid kits? We’re talking about a major terrorist attack. Do you really think a few Band-Aids and an aspirin are really going to help? We’ll take some Valium, throw on an army surplus gas mask, and take a nap, thank you very much.

- We couldn’t agree more with this last one. Dig a hole in your family room, cover it with plastic, duct tape the plastic down, and fill it with water before they bomb Boca. You’ve got your very own pool and water supply, and when you need to go to the bathroom you’ve got yourself a hot tub.
- Toss in a couple of flags from the axis of evil countries, just to give you extra options.
- Here’s one they forgot- a gun with lots and lots of bullets.

Step Two: Make A Family Communications Plan.

Their Plan:

Plan in advance and use common sense. This should be easy to do as you’re thumbing through the yellow pages while an attack is going on.

Create a plan to “shelter-in-place.” Pick a room with the fewest windows and doors. Pre-cut plastic to seal windows and doors in case of chemical or biological weapons attack.

Create a plan to get away. Choose a destination to go to in an emergency. Keep a half –tank of gas in your car at all times.

Our plan:

Who has time to pre-cut plastic with the weather being as beautiful as it has been? If plastic is really such a great barrier, why don’t you just make yourself a Glad-lock mask and duct-tape the bottom to your neck. Double bag your kids in Hefty garbage bags, cinch sacks keep the drafts out on chilly mountain nights.

So our top five get away destination in case of emergency are Cuba, Amsterdam, Hawaii, Jamaica, and the mountains of Afghanistan because apparently it’s really hard find people up there.