PREPAREDNESS: SELF DEFENSE

When planning for possible emergency situations, self defense is one of the considerations that should be made. Different emergencies pose different potential threats to personal safety and loss of property, and a range of possibilities should be considered. Instances of civil unrest obviously pose some of the most likely dangers, but even weather disasters can present times when looting and burglary are temptations to opportunists. Food shortages for a variety of possible reasons are another example of potential life-threatening emergencies. After as little as one week, many people would be virtually out of food at home; and if there is no food to be had in the grocery stores, those people become potential threats to those who still have food. People will go to extreme measures when they become hungry and even more extreme measures when their children have no food. While there are certainly potential threats to our liberty as martial law or foreign invasion, there is likely more danger to be had from roving bands of hungry citizens.

Self defense planning should include instructions about where family members should gather in case of an emergency; how your home would be secured; who else (if anyone) would you allow in during such an emergency; and where and how you would evacuate in a worst case scenario.

Self defense implements could include knives, pepper spray, tasers, or other similar weapons; but most self defense plans should also include one or more firearms. A number of factors should be considered when deciding what kind of firearm(s) to include in your plan. Such factors might include what you already own, the cost of a new gun, the cost and availability of ammo for a particular gun, the type of gun that would be most valuable in the most likely emergency scenarios, your comfort level with a particular firearm, and the ability of other family members to use the gun that you choose. In short, put thought into your selection.

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