

How Your Family Can Jeopardize Your Safety When SHTF (+How To Fix It)

We've all got them... friends and family members whose survival plan is us.

You know what I mean; they're the ones who snicker about showing up at your doorstep, expecting you to take care of them, when things go bad. Somehow or other, these people seem to think that they have a right to our hard earned security, even though they haven't done anything themselves.

The reality here is that these people, like many others in our country today, are displaying what is known as an "entitlement mentality." Granted, this isn't what we're normally talking about, when the subject of entitlement mentality is raised; but if you look at it, it's the same thing. It's the idea that they somehow have the right to something that they haven't earned, but that someone else has earned.

Anyone who is a prepper knows that it takes a lot of time, money and sacrifice to prepare for a disaster. Like anything else in life, it's a choice that we've made; one to protect our families. For others to assume that our sacrifice is their benefit is not only unfair; but totally unreasonable. The trick is getting them to see that. Better yet, to get them to see that our preparedness isn't going to be the answer to their needs. They're going to have to do something themselves.

I've always found that it's easier to convince people of something, when I can show them the benefit to themselves. It doesn't matter if we're talking about convincing a factory worker to use a new tool or a homeowner to buy a fire extinguisher, there has to be something in it for them, to get them to buy into the idea. This is no different.

What Gives them the Right?

We all tend to start out with the argument of asking what makes them think that they have a right to your preps. They obviously think they have that right or the subject wouldn't even be coming up. So that argument isn't going to change their minds. Nevertheless, I still think it's a good starting point; not to convince them of anything, but rather to use as a foundation for what comes later.

The idea here is to convince them that they aren't going to survive by depending on you. So by bringing this point up, you're showing what's on one side of the scale; their supposed "right" that they are assuming. That's the only thing that's going to be on that side of the scale. Then you're going to start heaping things on the other side. It won't take long before that scale looks way out of balance, even to them.

That's what you want. The sooner they realize that their original premise was wrong; the sooner you can start showing them what to do, so that they can help themselves. That's the win; and it's a true win for both of you.

Limits to Your Resources

Your first point is that your resources are limited. While you might appear to have a lot in your home, that's only because they aren't used to seeing that much food and other supplies in one place, unless it is the grocery store. Your pantry may very well look like the corner grocery store to them, even though it's not.

All of us have limits to our resources, even if we have two years worth of food sitting in our basements. Since we don't know what sort of disaster we're likely to face, that two years of food may not be enough. Just read "One Second After" if you have any doubt about how quickly you'll go through your

supplies. Any grid-down situation is going to require full self-sufficiency or many years worth of supplies.

Supply Limitations

Your supplies have finite limits. How finite? That depends on you, how long you've been prepping and how much you've invested in it. But let's be generous and say that you have a year's worth of food stockpiled in your home. That's one year's worth of food for your family. Add another family of the same size and suddenly that year's worth of food is cut to six months.

But that doesn't necessarily mean you're cutting your family's survival from one year to six months; it could very well mean that you're cutting your family's survival from "Yes" to "No." Let's use a grid-down situation as our example. If the grid goes down late enough in the summer that it's too late to plant, you won't be able to take in your first harvest for almost a year. That means your family will die of starvation, before you can take in that harvest. If you don't share that food, you'll have enough to get you through, while you are becoming self-sufficient.

Your erstwhile friend needs to understand that the cost of helping them could be your own family's life and that you won't be able to save them in the process. In other words, there is no gain for them, past a few months worth of food.

Space Limitations

Not only are you limited on food and other critical supplies, but you're probably limited on space as well. Are they going to be willing to sleep on the hard floor, just so that they can mooch off of you? Or are they going to expect you to have beds for them? Perhaps they're going to expect you to make your kids sleep on the floor, so that they can take the kids beds.

Take my word for it, unless you have two families which are extremely close and get along great, it's not going to take long for you to grate on each other's nerves. Then what are you going to do to make things work out?

emergency supplies kit Checklist	
consumables	
	Non-perishable food :: 3 days worth for each member of the family
	Water :: 3 gallons {1 gallon / day} for each member of the family
	Food and water for each pet
	Paper goods such as plates, plastic forks, paper towels, etc.
	Infant formula, diapers, and wipes
wellness items	
	First aid kit
	Prescription medications
	Non-prescription medications such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, anti-diarrhea, etc.
	Eyeglasses, contacts, and contact solution
	Personal hygiene items and feminine supplies
	Anti-bacterial soap
	Moist towelettes
electronic devices	
	Cell phones, tablets, and chargers
	Weather radio
	Flashlights and batteries
	Jumper cables for your vehicle
	Generator with extra gasoline
miscellaneous	
	Cash and emergency credit card
	Garbage bags
	Tools for turning off utilities if necessary such as a wrench, pliers, screwdriver, etc.
	Linens such as pillows, blankets, towels, etc.
	Change of clothing for each member of the family
	Books and games for children
	Paper and pens for notetaking
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You Don't Have what They Need

Of course, all of the above assumes that what you have is what

they need, something that's very dangerous to assume. The truth is that every family is different and every survival situation is different. So, chances are that you won't have everything they need, even if you do have enough food, water and the other basics.

Special Needs

One of the areas where you probably won't have what they need is in any special needs. As of 2014, a whopping 60 percent of the adults in the United States had at least one chronic medical condition. It gets worse, because 42 percent have more than one. In other words, chances are 6 in 10 that your friend or family member is going to need some sort of medication that you probably don't have.

There are countless other special needs that you might encounter as well; not just medical needs. You probably won't have clothing in the sizes that their kids need, as they grow. Nor will you have pet food for their pets. The list goes on and on and there's no way that you can cover it.

Different Situation

Of course, their situation might be very different than yours. Even a few short miles can make all the difference in the world. If their home is flooding and yours isn't, they have different needs than you do. If they live in the city and you live in the country, chances are they're going to have different needs as well. You can't be expected to anticipate their needs or be prepared to meet them.

Difficulty in Getting to You

But there's a bigger problem than supply; that's them even getting to where you are. I've had people living as far as 100 miles away claim that they're going to come to my house in the event of an emergency. Really? How?

The reality is that there will be very little possibility of anyone making it very far in a post-disaster situation; especially one where the electrical grid is down. But even simpler problems can cause major transportation problems. Just look at any evacuation that has happened in the last 20 years. Can you imagine trying to make it to a friend's home if you were evacuating the Florida peninsula during Hurricane Irma in 2017? Traffic was backed up for several hundred miles.

Granted, we all have an evacuation plan or bug out plan; but that's us, those who are prepared. Just deciding to jump in your car and boogie over to your prepper friend's house isn't a bug out plan; it's an act of desperation. They need more than that, if they're planning on surviving. They especially need a plan if they can't drive.

Their Lack of Training

Another major issue for anyone who shows up at your doorstep is their lack of training. As we all know, survival is an all-encompassing task, requiring a lot of specific knowledge in a lot of specific skills. Anyone who is a part of your survival group or team, but doesn't know the necessary survival skills, is nothing more than an added burden for you.

That's bad enough when it is your spouse or kids; but when it is others, it's insufferable. Basically, it is them saying that they are going to come stay at your house, eating your food and expecting you to wait on them hand and foot. What made you their slave?

If they want that, they should at least be willing to become your slave, so that they bring something of value to the table. But be careful about that. There's a good chance that they're overweight and out of shape. How much help are they going to be in caring for your garden, if they can't even stand up, outside in the heat, all day?

EVERYDAY CARRY (EDC) ESSENTIALS

- CASH
- CELL PHONE WITH SURVIVAL EBOOKS, APPS, AND OFFLINE MAPS
- FOLDING KNIFE
- SMALL COMPASS
- EMERGENCY WHISTLE
- PEN AND PAPER
- FRESNEL LENS
- CREDIT CARD SHAPED MULTITOOL
- BANDANA
- SPARE CELL-PHONE BATTERY
- BAND-AIDS
- KEYCHAIN FLASHLIGHT
- BIC LIGHTER
- HANDGUN
- PEPPER SPRAY
- HANDKERCHIEF
- MECHANICAL WATCH
- SAFETY PINS

Offer to Help Them Prepare

By the time you've gotten to this point, I hope you've been able to convince them that you aren't their savior; but that they need to prepare for themselves. This is the point at which you can turn from the bad guy to the good guy, offering to help.

Obviously, the greatest help you can give them is training and

advice. You've already been through it, so you know the mistakes that you've made. You also know what you've had to do to overcome those mistakes. That information is invaluable and can help them to get a good start, without making the same sorts of mistakes.

You can also direct them to good sources of information which you have found, but they are unaware of. We all have our own collection of favorite websites and books that we use. Pointing these family members and friends to those can help prevent them from getting bad information which will waste their time, resources and lessen their chances of survival.

One final area you might help them in is to plant a seed of equipment and supplies in their lives. Perhaps there are things which you have bought and later replaced with better equipment; but you still have them. Those are great for helping someone else to get started. Explain what they are and why you've replaced them, while at the same time letting them know that it is something to get them started with.

Keep Some Spare Food and Seed

I realize this is rather controversial with man preppers and there are a lot of people who will disagree with me on this point. But I go a step farther than that, in that I stockpile extra food and seed, which is there so that I can share it with others. I don't stock the same food that I do for my family; but I do stock rice and beans, which will at least sustain someone, while they are trying to get their garden growing.

More than food, I stockpile seed. I know that I'm going to need a lot of seed in the aftermath of a crisis, especially a long-term one. So I need that seed to turn my entire backyard into a garden. But I have more than that. I have enough to do my backyard a few times over. That way, I can share seed with others, helping them to get their gardens growing and helping

them to become self-sufficient.

I also have a rototiller and plenty of gasoline for it. While it's possible to spade up a back yard with a shovel, it's hard work. The rototiller helps make sure that my friends and neighbors are going to be able to garden, which helps make sure that they won't be coming around begging from me.