

Emergency Preparedness in Taiwan

A Brief Guide in Three Parts



Part 1

(This is an excerpt from the book EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN TAIWAN which is currently in production and will be available later this year.)

TEXT: TOBIE OPENSHAW WITH JOHN GROOT IMAGE: WEB IMAGE

INTRODUCTION

Taiwan is no stranger to natural disasters, of which typhoons and earthquakes are the most common. Nowadays, the elephant in the room is the threat of war. So it should be said that while we do not believe that war is imminent, we suggest you follow the old adage of “Hope for the best while preparing for the worst.” The following suggestions and thoughts are relevant to any disruptive event, and the focus is to get YOU to start thinking and to make plans suitable to your circumstances.

MENTAL PREPARATION

Your worst enemy during an emergency situation is panic. If you have taken the time to think through various scenarios in advance, and prepared for them, even if just a little, you will be able to face it.

How dependent are you on the following? Imagine how you would you deal with these being disrupted, not reliable, or simply unavailable:

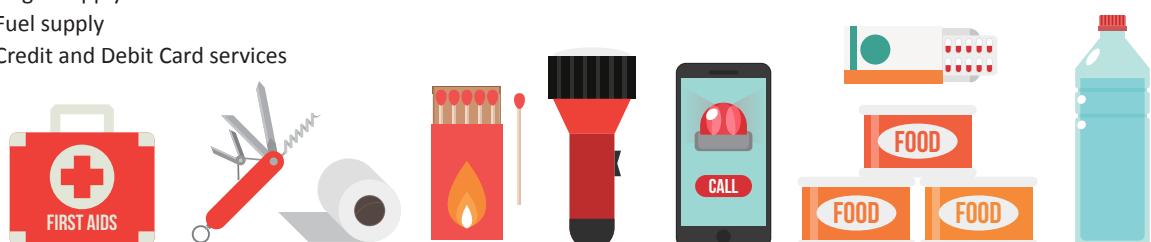
- Cell Phone service
- Internet connectivity
- Electricity supply
- ATMs
- Refrigeration
- Water supply
- LP gas supply
- Fuel supply
- Credit and Debit Card services

WHAT PLAN DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR FAMILY, AND WHAT EMERGENCY SUPPLIES DO YOU HAVE?

In any disaster or emergency situation, one of the first decisions you need to make is “Do I stay or do I go?” You may choose to shelter in place, relocate to another safe location, or to leave the country. Consider the following for yourself and your loved ones:

FIRST DECIDE: SHELTER IN PLACE OR BUG OUT?

Shelter in Place if	Go to Government shelter if	Bug out if
Your building is undamaged/lightly damaged.	Your home is unlivable — but the area is deemed safe.	Your area/district appears to be targeted.
You still have water, electricity, gas.	Transportation is not available.	Your building is severely damaged.
Your location seems removed from the area of attacks.	Routes to bug-out locations are cut off.	Your water is cut off.
Your bug-out location (or the route to it) is compromised.	You or a loved one are injured/need emergency care.	Your electricity/gas is cut off.
Your bug-out location (or the route to it) is compromised.	Food/water is not available.	Food supplies are running low and resupply is unavailable
Stores are open, supplies are still available.		Entry/exit points are being cut off.
A viable evacuation plan is forthcoming.		Any news of a targeted campaign against foreigners.



YOU SHOULD:

- Monitor any available news sources (ICRT FM - 100.7 MHz.)
- Message regular updates of your status and plans to a trusted circle.
- Use secure apps like Signal or Telegram
- Bring family members to your place to shelter together.
- Monitor gas carefully in case of leaks. Avoid open flames.
- Even when sheltering in place, have vehicles packed, fueled and ready to go.



AIR RAID SHELTERS VS EVACUATION CENTRE:

- **Air Raid/Bomb Shelter** is usually the basement parking garage of your building or somewhere nearby. That's where you go when the missiles/bombs are falling. No resources will be provided. You have to bring your own.
- **Evacuation Centre** would be in a sports stadium, school gym, etc. with basic sleeping facilities (cots, sleeping bags at best). Identify your local one in advance. Google "Taiwan Emergency Evacuation Shelters".
- **Aid, water, food and medical services will be funneled to the emergency shelters.**
- So if you need it — that's where it will be. If you DON'T need it, consider opening a spot for someone in more need and be self-sufficient.
- Go to the Emergency Shelter first to register/be accounted for/receive news, before setting off on your own, if you have a place prepared.

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