

VeteransAIR – Preparing for Hurricane Season

VeteransAir

April 5th, 2022 1:00PM

Show title: VeteransAIR – Preparing for Hurricane Season

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Welcome to VeteransAir – the Veteran’s Hour your source for news, talk and uncensored commentary here on Lone Star Community Radio. I’m your host DouglasB and along with my co-host Dangerous Dan you can listen to us Live the FIRST Tuesday of the month and wherever you get your podcasts.

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As always, a little housekeeping today before we get started. You can contact VeteransAir through the website at www.VeteransAir.us or leave us a message or better yet text us in the studio on our Google phone: 936-344-3083.

We need to talk about preparedness. Preparedness, not only for the upcoming hurricane season, which starts in 2 months, but also for what is going on in the world today. Gas prices are skyrocketing, inflation is out of control, some food commodities are not getting to the store shelves and to top it all off President Biden is saying that America will face food shortages. Food shortages, I just can’t wrap my head around that! When did America become dependent on Russia and the Ukraine? Seriously, someone explain that to me!

So, I though now would be a good opportunity to talk to you about being prepared. Those that know me personally know that among other things I’m a half-assed prepper. Half-assed Prepping means that you are prepared for emergencies. Not a total collapse of society or the Zombie Apocalypse but maybe somewhere in between. If you’ve met me, you know I don’t go anywhere without my Get Home Bag. It has everything I need to get me home. Money, Leatherman, flashlight, tactical pen, K-bar spork, WiFi, Power bank, PPW, etc. I think everyone should have a Get Home Bag because you never know where you’ll be when you will need something in the bag. Remember, my motto, “It’s better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it.”

So, as I’ve said I’m prepping and want to share some of what I’ve learned and do with you. As always, Check the links above or below or better yet got download the transcript of this show. After the flooding from 3 years ago and the frozen pipes from the winter before last I’ve taken a look at my Hurricane Box and decided I need to add to it. The flooding and frozen pipes have taught me hard and expensive learned lessons.

First, I’d like to talk to you about power. Power is something that most of us take for granted and it’s only when we play with the notion of “living off the grid” do we realize we are in no way ready for that step. In the immortal words of Captain Jack Sparrow, “There are things a man can do and things a man can’t do.” Something we all can do is get a generator. Before you run out and get the biggest, cheapest one you can find you need to be asking yourself some questions.

- 1) Do I really need a standby generator or will a portable one work?
 - a. Standby generators start around \$2,000 BUT then you add the prep for the installation, and you can quickly be over \$10,000.
 - b. Portable generators tend to be cheaper, but it requires you to maintain it.
 - c. Personally, I have to “portable” generators as that works best for my situation.
- 2) What fuel to use?
 - a. For standby generators you really only have two choices, natural gas or propane.
 - b. Portable generators are gasoline and propane mostly, but other fuel sources are available such as diesel and even solar.
 - c. For me I chose the Champion Equipment line of Dual Fuel Generators.
- 3) What do I need to really run and for how long?
 - a. Unlike, a standby generator a portable generator is NOT meant to run your whole house. Attempting to hook your portable generator up to your breaker box will either kill your generator or start a fire.
 - b. Add up all the things you want to run, find their starting wattage and running wattage and that’s how big a generator you need.
 - c. It’s important to note that things like refrigerators, freezers, microwaves and even coffee pots have a starting wattage and a running wattage. You need to get a generator that can handle the load.

Next, let’s talk about flooding. If you never flooded, then I’m happy for you but some of us do AND with the way Montgomery County and specifically Conroe is building and growing your high and dry neighborhood may be the next to flood. I’ve tried numerous flood barrier techniques and products but for my money the tried and true canvas sandbags are my favorite. That being said there are several products on the market that also work though are more expensive than sandbags. The pro side of that is storing them away is easier than sandbags!

I like two products particularly. I like the Quick Dam product line of sandbags and barriers for smaller areas and HydraBarriers for larger areas. Quick Dams are basically sandbags filled with a dry gel that expands when exposed to water. They come in 5’, 10’ and 17’ sizes with a max height of 3.5” when activated. If you stack more than 3 high the gel squeezes out of the fabric and make a mess. I use these in front of my external doors. The company says they are reusable and if you are careful on how you dry them out and have months to do so then yeah OK they’re reusable.

The HydraBarriers product is basically a long vinyl tube you fill with water. They come in 6’, 12’, 24’, 50’ lengths and offer heights of 20”, 12”, 6”, 4”. I use these to control the water from the driveway and coming off the street.

If you even think that you may one day flood or even if you have areas on your property that retain water, consider how you are going to remove that water. One of the best things I’ve found, and I brag about this to everyone, is the Waterbug Pump from Wayne Pumps. (Doug shows Waterbug). When I flooded, 4-6” in the whole house, this little pump pumped it all out in under 2 hours! I use this pump every time it rains because the run off from the street goes right down my driveway so I need this to pump it all out and for the past 5 years it has never failed me.

The next thing you need to prepare for is light. You have the generator and as long as it's running you have light. When it's not running you better have a candle handy. Well, I found a product that allows me to have light in 4 rooms, a FM radio and SD card music for up to 11 hours AND that is rechargeable by the sun. The SolarHome 602+ from Biolite Energy is my go to answer for lighting during a power outage. Let's take a look at this kit. **(Doug shows off the kit)**

The last thing in my preparedness quest is food. I do not believe President Biden that America will have food shortages. Farmers are still farming and ranchers are still ranching. The truth is that America does not NEED to buy fertilizer or food from Russia or the Ukraine. We do so because it is more expedient to do so and because the Federal laws and EPA regulations make it necessary. BUT we made those laws we can change them!

I DO think that food stuffs will become much more expensive so I'm storing food. Notices that I said storing and not hoarding because there is a big difference. Brother Johnny got me into food storage last February when I was snowed in with him in Watertown, NY. When it comes to food storage you have two basic options: canning and dry storage. When I talk about food storage I'm talking long term, years, sometime decades in fact.

Depending on WHAT you are storing will determine the method you use. One of my go to resources for what to store and how is The Church of Latter-Day Saints. Today we're talking dry storage in mylar bags.

All you need to store dry goods like flour, oats, salt, beans, etc., is a mylar bag, and oxygen absorber and an iron. The enemy of dry goods is oxygen, moisture, and light. Mylar bags and oxygen absorbers take care of that easily and the food will last anywhere from 10 to 30 YEARS! **(Doug shows Mylar bag and oxygen absorber)**. For me I chose a 7.4 mil thick, 1-gallon, Ziplock mylar bag. I wanted something extra thick when thinking about how I will be storing and using the bags. Am I going to be using 5 pounds of flour in a couple of months? Probably not so when I open my bag I can use some and Ziplock the rest! What you are storing and how you will be using what you store will dictate the size, thickness and openability of your mylar bags.

The last thing I want to talk about today is the War in Ukraine. **(Display TGP_All-Wars-Are-Created-Equal.jpg)** Listening to our elected officials I've come to the conclusion that the Ukraine elected a comedian and got a president and America elected a president and got a clown. That may be harsh, but it doesn't make it wrong. Look, the truth is that the Ukraine NEVER was a democracy and keep saying that it is doesn't make it true either. That is not to say that what Russia is doing is justified because it's not. I think America should support the Ukraine with whatever we can afford to give them but at the end of the day the Ukraine is not part of NATO nor does America have a mutual arms agreement with the Ukraine. This is NOT our war. If you WANT to go fight, then go and I think we should help warriors that want to volunteer to be boots on the ground, but we CAN NOT send our Armed Forces.

(Display TGP_0935-Ukraine_Angel.jpg) I want to support the Ukrainian people. They inspire me. America, take a good hard look at the Ukrainian people. They are fighting for their country. They are fighting for their homes. They are acting like Americans SHOULD! If you want to support the Ukrainian people and get some cool art in the bargain, then go to <https://proofs.texasgrace.com> and follow the

link to *Mariya – Ukrainian Angel*. 100% of the profits go directly to the World Central Kitchen | Chefs for Ukraine

Ending:

I want to leave you with this awesome song by the Warrior Song Project. Go download it from Veteransair.us or on iTunes. While we are listening let us remember our brothers and sister in uniform that today are standing in harm's way to stand for our freedoms and liberty. If you are wearing the uniform, I say thank you and I'm proud of you. Until next month, "Stay Safe and Stay Vigilant!"

Play TheWarriorSong.mp3 (3 min 41 sec)

Play: have been listening-GRUNT.wav (12 sec)

Show Links:

Doug's Get Home Bag: <https://redrockoutdoorgear.com/products/renegade-sling-pack.html>

Champion Equipment: <https://www.championpowerequipment.com/products/generators/portable-generators/>

Quick Dams: <https://quickdams.com/index.php/product/flood-bags-2-pack/>

HydraBarriers: <https://hydrabarrier.com/collections/water-barriers-collection>

Biolite Energy: <https://www.bioliteenergy.com/products/solar-starter-pack>

The Food Storage Library: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/topics/food-storage/longer-term-food-supply?lang=eng>

Mylar Bags at Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/s?k=heavy+duty+mylar+bags&ref=nb_sb_noss_1

Waterbug Pump: <https://www.waynepumps.com/product/wwb/>

Ukraine Angel: <https://proofs.texasgrace.com/gallery/ukraine/>

World Central Kitchen: <https://wck.org/>