



# Prepping Guide

## Survival Smartphones for SHTF

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A smartphone is a survival tool. During localized emergencies it can relay info to your family using PTT radio apps, navigate to a rally point, get federal alerts or weather updates, and more. However, the abilities of a phone are not limited just because SHTF and internet/cell-coverage is out. Your phone can still use downloaded maps, built-in flashlight, access pre-saved survival textbooks/guides, start a fire with the battery, improvise a compass using magnet and wire from phone components, use camera as binos or range/distance finder, signal using reflective screen, make a fishing lure, and so much more.

### Bottom Line Up Up Front (BLUF):

- Select a phone and phone provider with the most survival options.
- Choose a case for protection and to store supplies.
- Extend battery life, optimize for SHTF, Faraday protect device.
- Equip a micro survival kit to phone.
- Familiarize with 20+ survival abilities and uses that don't require service, (cellular/data).
- App Guide, select from tried and tested apps for emergencies.

### LEGEND



This app features "Offline Capabilities" to a degree that the majority of the options can be accessed without a data connection. This means that a cellular service plan and/or Wifi is not needed for everyday use but may be required for setup.



This app features "Continuous Relay Attempt" Technology. When data connection is delayed or disabled; this app will attempt to reconnect and resend/receive data. This ensures the transmittal of text, voice, and media files.



This indicates the resource is available as a website viewed from a web browser and requires internet access to utilize. This resource is not an app. Not suited for a grid-down scenario but are helpful during localized disasters.



This option requires a separate standalone device that pairs, connects, or attaches to a smartphone thus adding functionality.



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### SMARTPHONE SURVIVAL OVERVIEW

**CHOOSE A PHONE**

**ADD A CASE**

**HIDE SURVIVAL KIT  
BEHIND PHONE**

**EXPAND MEMORY W/  
ADDITIONAL SD CARD**

**OPTIMIZE PHONE  
BATTERY LIFE**

**KEEP PHONE IN  
FARADAY CAGE WHEN  
NOT IN USE**

**DOWNLOAD APPS**

**TEST APPS FOR  
OFFLINE USE**

**TEST PTT**



**DOWNLOAD  
TEXTBOOKS, GUIDES,  
AND FILES**

**PRELOAD MAPS AND  
WAYPOINTS**

**SAVE ICERS ON  
PHONE**

**ADD PERSONAL  
NOTES, ICE, MEDICAL  
ID TO PHONE LOCK  
SCREEN**

**KEEP IN AIRPLANE  
MODE TO DETER  
TRACKING AND SAVE  
BATTERY**

**ADD MORALE  
BOOSTER MUSIC/VIDS**

**SETUP FM RADIO**



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### PHONE HARDWARE

**PREFERRED SPECS** - Your phone itself should be ruggedized and equipped with certain features. Here's what you want to look for when selecting the right phone for survival uses.

- ☐ Ruggedized, should be MIL-STD-810G.
- ☐ Waterproof, should be rated IP67. (learn about ratings [here](#))
- ☐ Hardpress buttons, for ease of access. These buttons can be programmed to activate certain apps like a flashlight, PPT walkie, camera, etc. They can be used when the phone is wet and when your vision is obscured.
- ☐ Flashlight.
- ☐ Removable Battery, for redundancy and extended battery life. Carry additional batteries and swap out when one dies.
- ☐ MicroSD Card slot, for additional storage space so you can store offline maps, eBooks, movies, music, and files with survival information.
- ☐ 16GB internal storage.
- ☐ FM radio function, not available on Apple iPhones.
- ☐ PTT Features - Having a walkie talkie function built-in adds additional method of communication abilities. Here are the top three cellular providers that have the option.
  - ◆ Sprint - Direct Connect (SDC) operates as a walkie talkie for sending voice instantaneously. Given priority on 4G LTE and 3G. Greatest selection of PTT ready phones.
  - ◆ At&t - Operates as a walkie talkie for sending voice instantaneously. Enhanced PTT given priority on 4G LTE. Encrypted. Send texts, images, videos, PDF files, and more with contacts and talkgroups. \*Meets 3GPP standards. \*Interoperability with Land Mobile Radios (LMR) and legacy 2 way radios.
  - ◆ Verizon PTT+ - Operates as a walkie talkie for sending voice instantaneously. Send texts, images, videos, PDF files, and more with contacts and talkgroups.
- ☐ Phone coverage - Mobile cell coverage varies. There is no way to say which is best because it all depends on where you live. You can do a quick coverage check using [this](#) third party website.
  - ◆ Check and see if you are eligible for elevated service. There are service providers that will offer interoperable networks (allowing you service from multiple carriers) priority (removes others from network), and preemption(provides uninterrupted service during congestion). Typically you must have a justification for receiving this service such as being a first responder, emergency personelle, military, etc. FirstNet and the DHS GETS/WPS are two examples.



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**PHONE CASE** - A case can add functionality and protections to your device. You'll want to focus on screen and water protection.

- Protects phone from water, shock, dust, and UV.
- A case adds additional options for incorporating as survival and EDC kit.
  - ◆ There are many phone cases with built-in stowaway tools, knives, card holders, and other accessories. Search the internet and find one that works best for you.
    - [Task One G3](#) and [Klecker Knives Stowaway Case](#) are two examples of the many options available.

**SURVIVAL/EDC KIT** - Add a tangible array of supplies to be carried on your phone.

- The back of your phone makes a great place to attach or store items. For some items you may need a phone case, (simply add items on the backside of phone between the phone and the case, this securely stores them on your phone, concealed but ready for quick access).
  - ◆ Adhere [signal or glow tape](#) to back of phone, use to illuminate or for search and rescue.
  - ◆ Adhere duct tape patches to back of phone and peel off as needed.
  - ◆ Use duct tape to store items against phone.
  - ◆ Here's a list of items you could adhere or store inside your phone case;
    - Razor blade, craft blades
    - Credit card, IDs, magnification card
    - Money, notes, small map
    - Bandages, moleskin, suture kit, butterfly closures, steri-strips, alcohol prep pad
    - Needles, shim escape tool
    - Fire Tinder, fishing line, aluminum foil, water purification tablets, thread
    - Most of the survival supplies in our [patch kits](#) will fit against the phone backing. You can also adhere a [morale patch and kit](#) to the back of the case or phone itself.

**BATTERY OPTIMIZATION** - Make your phone last longer.

- Keep phone in airplane mode or off when not in use.
- When signal is out of range your phone will drain quicker as it searches for cell towers.
- Use your phone's settings to optimize battery, delete or disable background apps, remove unnecessary phone, dim backlight/screen, turn on auto off features to less than a minute.
- Turn off notifications for non-essential apps.
- Use headphones when using morale booster apps that use audio.



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### PHONE ACCESSORIES - Must have phone accessories.

- Add wired earbuds to your kit/carry. These will help maintain the Gray Man technique of trying to appear less obvious, they can be left in your ears but audio off so you can listen out to surroundings while keep situationally aware but appearing less conspicuous. Earbuds save battery life versus speaker usage. You can use it as a headset for conversing while keeping your hands free.
- Add a battery charger.
  - ◆ Solar charger - keep a solar panel and battery storage device in your kit/carry. Charge during the day, travel at night in SHTF scenarios.
    - [Offgridtrek.com](http://Offgridtrek.com) and [powerfilmsolar.com](http://powerfilmsolar.com) offer compact panels for device charging on the go.
  - ◆ Additional phone batteries or portable battery.
    - Consider a crank style battery charger or biomass charger.
- Add charging cables, 2+ cables.
- Add 12v USB charger with alligator clips for charging from car batteries.
- Carry a faraday cage bag/case at all times. Keep your phone inside the cage when not in use. While you could carry a bulky case or single use ziplock mylar faraday bag, we suggest a multi-purpose faraday cage such as the [Faraday Hank](#). It's a handkerchief with built-in storage pocket lined with nickel/copper fabric for defence against EMPs, CME, Solar Flares, etc. It also allows you to avoid tracking as it disables on incoming and outgoing signals.

**ANONYMOUS PHONE USAGE (semi-burner):** Much like a burner phone, the idea is to have a smartphone that can't be traced to you via Personally Identifiable Information (PII). This doesn't mean it cannot be tracked via GPS but rather it can be operated with anonymity.

- Buy an unlocked phone from a retailer using cash. (Don't buy from a service provider). Do not enter a contract nor provide PII.
- Unbox, leave phone powered off. Insert a microphone blocking plug. Place an adhesive camera blocker over the front and rear cameras, (duct tape, foil tape, etc).
- Go to a public WiFi access. Power on the phone. Setup accounts using a new email address and again providing no PII.
- Disable all invasive features such as device error logging, GPS, NFC, bluetooth, location sharing, health tracking functions, etc. Delete all bloatware apps.
- Purchase a data SIM card. Not a standard SIM with cellular phone plan. Use apps for communication over internet protocols.
- Power phone off, remove battery if possible, and place it in Faraday bag when not in use.



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**DISABLE TRACKING** - Many of the standard apps we use each day use Location Services. Sometimes it's to increase the functionality of the app to offer localized suggestions and sometimes it could be used for selling our location information or allowing others to spy on our whereabouts. Odds are you'll run into privacy trouble on 3rd Party Apps rather than mainstream bloatware that comes pre-installed. In most cases you can pick and choose which app has access. Make sure apps that don't need your location, like most games, are set to "Never." Other apps should be set to track your location only while you're using them. There's no reason an app needs to track you all the time. Here's a quick walkthrough on how to disable apps that you don't want having access to your coordinates.

- Android: Open Settings | Tap "Advanced." | Choose "App permissions." | Select "Location." | You'll see a list of apps that have access to your location. | Turn off the apps that you don't think need to know where you are.
- iPhone: Open Settings. | Tap "Privacy." | Select "Location Services." | If you want to completely stop all apps from using your location, turn Location Services off. | If you want to manage settings app by app, tap each app and choose "Never" or "While Using."

**SURVIVAL USES OF A SMARTPHONE** - Thinking outside the box, there are endless ways your phone can aid in survival.

- Survival Library - Download eBooks, PDFs, and files with guides and tips related to bushcraft, navigating, wilderness survival, urban survival, food preservation, fire-starting techniques, identifying wild plants, foraging, SERE, etc. You may want to add detailed manuals for rebuilding after an apocalyptic scenario such as building a gasifier, wiring and setting up a solar farm, processing grains, rebuilding an engine, etc.
  - ◆ Consider adding our other [guides](#) to your phone by downloading their PDFs for offline use.
- Communications - A phone is inherently designed to communicate. Calling, texting, apps, and email are at your disposal. You are only limited by loss of cellular and internet capabilities.
  - *Pro-Tip: Identify out-of-town emergency contacts (OOTEC). If you are trying to use "spotty" and "overloaded" internet/cellular signals to get a message to someone else in your same area, you will both be struggling to send and receive. Instead, contact your OOTEC first then allow them to relay messages from the safety/comfort of their unaffected area.*
  - *Pro-Tip: First Responders and Emergency Management may be eligible for preemption/priority services.*
    - *WPS - Wireless Priority Service is a DHS program that supports national leadership; federal, state, local, tribal and territorial governments; and*



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*other authorized NS/EP users. It is intended to be used in an emergency or crisis situation when the wireless network is congested and the probability of completing a normal call is reduced.*

- *FirstNet - is an extension of AT&T that enables priority access to cellular and data services when towers are congested. A federal contract allows sharing of other network towers to ensure increased coverage.*
- ◆ Calling - First and foremost you can use your phone to call others. When SHTF happens, make a call earlier in the event as cell towers will quickly become overloaded. Assess then react and decide where and when you will regroup. Use [ICERS](#) to aid in your bugout plan.
  - *Pro-Tip: Any phone can dial 911 even if there is no service plan or minutes on the phone.*
- ◆ 📞 Texting - As cell towers become overloaded using your phone to dial and call out will be disabled. A text is more likely to be sent and received. Your phone and cell provided will continue to attempt to send the message. Hang up, and send a text if you can't get your call out.
- ◆ Comms Apps - Use 3rd party messaging, phone, and radio apps, (if available, use the built-in PTT walkie-talkie). Apps like Facebook Messenger, Zello, Skype, WhatsApp, etc; can be used when an internet connection is available but cell/data is down. This provides another alternative for making contact.
  - FM Smartphone Chip receivers are already present in most smartphones, but not all smartphone makers activate them. If your phone has one you can use an app as a tuner to utilize the built in radio. You'll need an antenna but luckily your headphones double as one
    - This uses less data and battery power than connecting to radio apps, though of course, there's less control over what you listen to. Aside from the nostalgia factor, FM radio broadcasts can be life-saving, especially in emergency situations when information is transmitted via radio waves. If the mobile internet is down, having access to local radio stations through an FM chip would be an invaluable asset.
    - HTC, Samsung, LG, Motorola, and many other phones typically have an activated chip but Apple has refused the FCC's request to activate the iPhone's hidden FM radio to aid public safety.
    - How to get started?
      - ◆ 1. Download NextRadio.
      - ◆ 2. Plug in headphones, speaker cord, or earbuds.





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- ◆ 3. Open app, share location or enter zipcode.
- ◆ 4. Want to go total offgrid? Click settings in the app, then interface, then switch to tuner mode only.
  - Mesh/Network Apps - there are many pairable devices that extend the capabilities of your phone by using its capabilities such as bluetooth, IR, Radio, and NFC. See our apps guide below for more info.
- ◆ Email - again internet is required but this is the best option for establishing contact with someone that may not have a smartphone (or who's phone was lost/destroyed during SHTF). This is basically a message drop in the digital world and since it can be accessed on all devices such as smartphone, flip phone, desktop, tablet, smartTVs, etc.
- Mapping and Navigation - Your phone can act as a compass and a map. You can plot points, get directions, download satellite imagery, and more.
  - ◆ Maps - As you'll see in the APPS section below; there are many mapping apps available and many work while your phone is offline. You can download maps to your phone. Plot rally points, caches, message drops, and Bug Out Locations (BOLs). Your phone can aid in creating multiple routes as it displays highways, firebreaks, wooded areas, bodies of water, etc.
  - ◆ Self-Locating - If you are lost or unaware of your whereabouts, you can use your map and GPS function to self-locate and then find your way.
  - ◆ GPS - It's highly likely that GPS will still work post-apocalypse. Satellites are in high geosynchronous orbit and earth based attacks such as an EMP would not necessarily render GPS useless, (if your phone was Faraday protected). The military may turn off or encrypt GPS if the event is deemed a threat to the US. If GPS is still active, use it to sync with your maps app as needed.
- Binoculars - A phone equipped with a telephoto optical lens offers an opportunity to use your phone camera as binos. As of Feb 2019 the following phones have this option, iPhone XS, the XS Max, the Galaxy S9+ and the Note 9 . You'll want a 40MP camera or higher. You can also buy aftermarket attachable zoom lens. Whatever you have, once the picture is taken, open the photo in your gallery and pinch and zoom to see areas in greater detail.
- Flashlight - There is no greater tool than a light in the dark. Nearly all smartphones have flashlight capability that uses the front facing camera's flash. Not all phones have a built-in app so you may have to go to your app store to download a flashlight app. If you have hardpress buttons you can remap the flashlight app to your button using the settings in your phone or a third party remapping app. Having it as a button makes it easier to activate and use quickly.
- Firestarter - Yes, your phone can start a fire.





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- ◆ Use steel wool or even a gum wrapper to start a fire by rubbing it against the removed battery's contacts.
  - Use a gum wrapper that has waxed paper with aluminum foil. Cut the strip from the wrapper to be ¼ inch wide on the two ends and 1/16 inch wide in the center. Attached ends to the two battery contacts and it will ignite in the center of the wrapper.
- ◆ Find wire inside the phone, pry it loose from where it was soldered. Strip off insulation in the middle area of wire and both ends. Attach one end to the positive and one to negative contacts. The wire will become hot enough that you can then touch tinder to the middle bare section to start a flame.
- ◆ You can also simply puncture the battery. This is very dangerous but it will start a fire.
- Signalling and Improvised Comms- If it's dark, simply use your flashlight as a signalling device to signal to a rescue team or friendly. You can also use the reflective surface of your phone screen to signal. With these methods in mind, you can also use it to send messages using Morse Code.
- Cutting - The internal components of your phone can be sharp and can be improvised as a blade. The green circuit board can be sharpened on a rock and used as a knife or arrow/spear head.
- Compass - The speakers of all phones have a magnet in them. Find and remove a small wire about the size of a needle. Magnetize the needle by rubbing 20+ times across the magnet in the same direction. Place wire on a leaf, place leaf in still body of water like a puddle. The wire will align with North/South. The end that was swept across the magnet will be the end that points North.
- Morale Booster - Save books, the Bible, movies, music, and photos to your phone. Having these items can be a great way to take your mind off the disaster around you, raise your spirits, find encouragement and meaning, laugh, and pass the time.
- Alerts Weather and Emergency - Sign up for alerts from various sources. You may be able to get the news of a pending disaster before others and get a few minutes headstart to the gas pumps, grocery, or even down to your bunker.
- Decoy Device - If you need to distract someone momentarily your phone can be used as an improvised flash grenade or planted audible alarm. This could be used in scenarios where you're trapped in a building/home with robbers/invaders or any number of SHTF situations. Simply use your phone's alarm (set a unique tone such as an explosion, police sirens, etc), then plant the phone in a location away from where you are taking refuge, when the suspect reacts to the sound, use the distraction to escape. The built-in flash/strobe feature can be utilized to distract or blind, you may need to download a 3rd Party App for proper functionality,



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but the idea is the phone could be slid under a door or across a dimly lit room to temporary disorient and distract.

- Fishing - Use the reflective and metallic items in your phones to improvise as a fishing lure. Thicker gauge wire or even the circuit board can be shaped into a gouging hook.
- ICE & Medical ID - If your phone is lost it can quickly be returned to you if you have ICE information either physically written/engraved on the phone, as a tagline/caption on your lockscreen, or as a background/wallpaper. Simply add a phone number, email, or address so that police or a helpful bystander can get your phone returned to you. With the same methods above, you can also list any allergies, blood type, or medical conditions on your phone so first responders can properly treat you during an injury.









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### APPS & WEBSITES FOR SURVIVAL

#### MAPS & NAVIGATION

- [CoPilot](#) - Combining advanced navigation technology with breakthrough design, the new generation of CoPilot apps get you where you need to go, via the way that suits you best.
-  [Avenza Maps](#) - Get offline maps for your iOS, Android, and Windows devices. Some of the maps are free others need to be purchased. They have maps for most of the parks. I have found this one to be very accurate.
-  [Google Maps](#) - Most up-to-date map app, additional tools available through labs add-ons. Save local maps for offline use (walkthrough [here](#) and video demo [here](#)).
- [MotionX GPS For iPhones](#) - See your position and track your trail anywhere in the world on fast live MotionX open topographic and road maps.
-  [Topo Maps](#) - Once you have installed a map it can be viewed without any network connection. So download your maps before you leave home, and then don't worry about needing cellular or WiFi coverage. Topo Maps map downloads are free - all you pay is the initial price of the app.
-  [ViewRanger GPS & Topo Maps](#) - Create Saved Maps for offline use, access to thousands of route guides, track recording, view your path on map, share location
-  [BackCountry Navigator Pro](#) allows you to pre load topographic maps for your area for offline use. Using the GPS of your smartphone you can view your precise location overlaid on the topographic map. Use GPS only occasionally to preserve your battery.
-  [Off-Grid GPS](#) lets you plot locations on an offline map, and serves as distance based navigator by showing you the right direction of travel and real time feedback display if you are getting closer or further from your point. Provides speed, direction, and elevation data.

#### MEDICAL & FIRST-AID


- [Red Cross First Aid App](#) - American Red Cross First Aid with expert advice for everyday emergencies in your hand. Has videos, interactive quizzes and simple step-by-step advice focused on medical emergencies.
- Resuscitate! - CPR AED & Choking
- First Aid White Cross - Medical information
- Pet First Aid by the American Red Cross - First aid tips for your canines.








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**SURVIVAL INFO** - There are many survival guides available for shelter building, knot tying, snare trapping, SERE tips, self defense, etc.

- Apps vs. Wild: (Bear Essentials) from Bear Grylls.
- Army Survival App - Field manual with 1,400 pages on basic survival, evasion, first aid and recovery information, plant identification, and more.
- How to Tie Knots 3D - Useful knot tying tips.
- Knots 3D - Useful knot tying tips.
- SAS Survival Guide - All in one survival guide.
- Wild Edibles - ID edibles in the wilderness.
- Edible Plant Guide - ID edibles in the wilderness.
-  [Offline Survival Manual](#) - Completely offline reference book categorized by survival topics. Includes illustrations.





**COMMUNICATION** - There are many communication apps available for sending text messages, images, voice, and files. Many of these apps are built into your phone and vary per service provider.

- CB Talk - Acts as a Radio App to converse with other communities. Set your location and listen to only local handles.
-  Voxer Walkie Talkie - Walkie Talkie App for sending near-live voice, text, photos, & location sharing. Media is saved for viewing/listening at a later time or when connection is made. Features end-to-end encryption. \*Uses Wifi, 3G, and 4G connections.
-  TiKI Touch Talk Walkie Talkie - Instantly speak to or text one or many friends at once with the touch of a button. No setup needed, just have them in your address book or as Facebook friends. Fast and simple - TiKL turns your phone into a Push To Talk (PTT) Walkie Talkie with instant messenger capability. \*Uses Wifi, 2G, 3G, 4G, EDGE, and GPRS connections.
-  Zello PTt Walkie Talkie- Walkie Talkie App for sending near-live voice and text. Media is saved for viewing/listening at a later time or when connection is made. Allows remapping of hardware buttons as PTT on/off button. \*Uses Wifi, 2G, 3G, and 4G connections.
-  FireChat: Allows users to send text messages and images without internet connection but both communicating parties have the app installed. Can scan for anyone within 30 foot radius. This makes the app useful in a populated urban environment. Hashtags can be used to find others in your planning circle during a search. FireChat is an unsecure network.
-  The Serval Project: Nearly identical to FireChat but without some of the social functions; however this app is built with encryption capabilities and offers a secure means of communication.



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-  **GoTenna:** GoTenna creates a two-way radio system between mobile phones. It uses bluetooth to create a repeating network to communicate at further distances via wireless mesh.
  - ◆ *Encrypted 1-to-1 & Group Chat*
  - ◆ *Text, GPS, Topo Maps*
  - ◆ *Delivery Confirmation*
  - ◆ *Point to Point Range*
  - ◆ *Meshing*
  - ◆ *Automated Channel & Interference Management*
  - ◆ *Range starts at 0.5mi in urban environments and can reach 4+ miles in open LOS areas.*
  - ◆ *Data can be repeated by nearby users increasing range with a limit of 3 users for a range 12+mi.*
-  **Beartooth** - is a handheld device that works with your smartphone to keep you connected when there is no cell service by using a bluetooth and radio signals in a mesh network. It's a standalone device about the size of a pack of playing cards. The main feature here is its ability to work as a walkie talkie.
  - ◆ *Voice - Push-to-talk means quick communication between you and your crew up to 5 miles away.*
  - ◆ *Text - One-on-one or group texts to any Beartooth users up to 10 miles away.*
  - ◆ *Maps - The topographic Beartooth maps are made for the explorer.*
  - ◆ *2.43in x 3.98in x 0.49in (4.5oz)*
  - ◆ *Works with iOS and Android Phones*
  - ◆ *Line-of-sight range: 5 miles for voice (10 miles for text)*
  - ◆ *No line-of-sight: 2 miles for voice (4 miles for text)*
  - ◆ *900 MHz Digital Transceiver (902MHz – 928MHz) with 1W Transmit Power (30dBm)*
  - ◆ *AES 256-Bit Encryption*
  - ◆ *Bluetooth 2.0 Connection to Smartphone*
  - ◆ *4 Day Battery Life (5/5/90 Duty Cycle)*
  - ◆ *USB Type-C Port With Fast Bi-Directional Charging (2.1A)*
  - ◆ *Data can be repeated by nearby users increasing range, there is no verified limitation so data could be potential multiplied by up to 10 miles per user in range.*
-  **Gotoky** - Requires a smartphone. Uses a mesh network with other users.
  - ◆ *Voice/Text Messages (including to a group)*
  - ◆ *Emergency Location Beacon, real time tracking, route recording, GPS sharing.*
  - ◆ *Navigation, detailed maps, compass.*
  - ◆ *Range is from 0.5mi in congested areas, 2.5mi in mountains/open fields, and up to 10mi in flat areas such as ocean/desert.*
-  **Fogo** - Multitool and Comms device.
  - ◆ *Built-in flashlight.*
  - ◆ *Backup USB Battery Bank.*





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- ◆ *Motion activated light up feature to find device in darkness.*
- ◆ *Fitness tracker.*
- ◆ *Waypoint navigation, geocaching feature.*
- ◆ *Crash detection that sends alert if you fall/crash or body is abruptly jarred.*
- ◆ *Voice and Text Messaging.*
- ◆ *Range from 1mi to 16mi (7mi for voice).*

### MONITORING CURRENT EVENTS - Get push notifications, alerts, and monitor events.

- Radio Scanner- Monitor police, fire, EMS radio frequencies that are open and not encrypted.
- Emergency Radio - Monitor police, fire, EMS radio frequencies that are open and not encrypted.
- Local News Outlet Apps - Search for your local news media outlets to get current events and notifications.
-  [EDIS](#) - The Emergency Disaster and Information Service website provides Near Real Time Map and Directory of active/impending earthquakes, fire, floods, landslides, nuclear event, tornados, vulcanos, EMP, terrorist strikes, etc. Pan and zoom on a live world map to view current Life Altering Events worldwide.
- [RSOE EDIS Notifier Lite](#) - This takes the EDIS services and provides alerts in a handy app. While it doesn't feature the mapping options of the website, you'll be able to set your alerts and view them directly from the app.
- [Alert 5](#) - delivers critical alerts to you as soon as an event happens! Alerts are sent out via push notifications so you will always be the first to know. There is no need to repeatedly check the app to find updates. Alerts cover 5 categories; nuclear, biological outbreaks, near earth orbits, stock market drops, and solar/geo.
-  NextRadio - If your smartphone has the FM receiver chip activated, you will be able to listen to local, terrestrial FM radio which uses less data (or no data with proper settings) and saves your battery life compared to streaming. The activated FM chip allows you to listen to NextRadio during times of emergency, working even when cell towers are down. The cord from your headphone or stereo cable act as an antenna to receive local FM radio signals.



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### SECURITY - Send out alerts in emergency scenarios.

- Guardly Mobile Safety - In a non-SHTF scenario such as a home invasion or robbery, this app can quickly send your location, contact police, and message pre-defined friends with an alert.
- bSafe - This is an alarm app that can manually be activated in an emergency such as a robbery or home invasion. It then sends a message, location info, and video to predetermined contacts. Upon activation it begins recording audio and video which can then be shared to the police if needed.
  - ◆ Pros - This app also has a “check-in” feature which you can set to a specific time and date, if you do not “check-in” prior to that time, it will alarm.
  - ◆ Cons - All contacts are required to have the app downloaded.
- SOS Messaging - While the name changes depending on your device; most phones have an emergency mode that lets you pre-program a list of emergency contacts. Once you activate the emergency mode it will auto message all the contacts with a pre-written message and your location data. Some SOS Messaging features also can automatically record audio and video and photos that will also be sent upon activation.
  - ◆ Pros - Contacts do not need to have a specific phone or app installed to receive the SOS alert.
- React Mobile - One of the few apps that will dial 911 for you in an emergency. The “Follow Me” function allows you to share real time location info to pre-programmed contacts when you feel like you may come across trouble. The “Help Me” function can be manually pressed to send an emergency message and dial 911.
  - ◆ Pros - For an upcharge you can get a hard press button key fob that will activate the “Help Me” function.

### TOOLS & UTILITIES - Get more out of your phone and extend its uses.

- Pocket - Allows you download websites and articles for offline use.
- BootPrint App - Helps navigate you to the the closest cellphone signal after you have lost connection.
- Google Translate - Translate 100s of languages. Great for when SHTF while you are in a foreign speaking land. Language packs can be downloaded for offline use. It also can utilize your phone’s camera to translate road signs.








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**PLANNING AND AFTERMATH** - Prepare using your phone as a resource to refer to your plans.

-  [ICERS](#) - While it's not an app, this emergency response system can be downloaded for offline use and can aid in regaining contact after SHTF, determine when to bugout or shelter in place.
-  [Safe and Well by American Red Cross](#) - A community page where you can mark yourself as "safe and well" and provides a secure messaging medium for sending info to other family/friends in your circle. Search for safe listed persons to locate them.
-  [Facebook Crisis Response and Mark Safe](#) - Crisis Response lets people affected by crises tell friends they're safe, find or offer help and get the latest news and information. Has a built-in "Status Update" option for marking yourself as safe if you are within an affected area.



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### **RESOURCES**

#### **BUGGING OUT**

Determining when to bugout is specific to each scenario. The rule of thumb is to egress from one location to another when resources are near depletion and/or danger is increasing to a point to be no longer avoidable.

Superesse has developed an Emergency Response System to help assess your situation and react in concert with your support group. The ICERS plan (In-Case-of-Emergency Response Plan) is a downloadable and editable template in PDF and Word format.

Download at [www.superesstraps.com/products/icers](http://www.superesstraps.com/products/icers)

#### **ELG: EMERGENCY LOADOUT GUIDES**

Download a 6 part series of guides for packing Bug Out Bags, INCH gear, Get Home Bag, Vehicle Emergency Kit, K9, and PSK/EDC.

Download at [www.superesstraps.com/collections/resources](http://www.superesstraps.com/collections/resources)

#### **CONTINGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

While smartphones are a great tool, learn about all the various devices and practices for SHTF communications with our guide on radios, primitive comms, message drops, satellite phones, and more.

Download at <https://www.superesstraps.com/collections/resources/products/preppingguidecomms>

### **SUMMARY**

This is a working document. We'll be adding to the app suggestions sections and including illustrations and more tips soon. You'll receive email notifications along with a download link.