



# Prepping Guide

## Target Hardening for SHTF

---

This guide will provide home targeting techniques designed to deter criminal activity in urban and rural communities during societal normalcy. Advanced tips and plans are provided to further defend your home or bugout location during a declared State of Emergency or Civil Unrest.

### Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF):

- Landscaping Tactics to improve natural surveillance and line of sight to abnormal activity.
- Access Controls for limiting pathways into property.
- Perimeter Implements to deter the desire, ability, and opportunity of marauders or criminal behavior that could lead to a home invasion or burglary.
- Early Alert Systems for advanced warning of unwanted visitors.
- Entry Security Tips for doors and windows.
- SHTF Defenses and Traps to detect and/or negate intrusion attempts.
- Analysis of lighting, barricades, alarms, signage, and wayfinding using Environmental Design principles.
- Integrate resources such as Neighborhood Watch, Dog Walking Clubs, Law Enforcement Patrol and Property Checks, and N/CERT (Neighborhood/Community Emergency Response Team).

### LEGEND



*This symbol represents a target hardening option intended for worst case scenarios such as civil unrest, high crime areas, private property outside the travel path of civilians, post-apocalyptic times, or any other situation where the need to defend your homestead is greatly increased by Life Altering Events.*



*This symbol indicates this target hardening option can be purchased online or viewed on YouTube by searching the following term to the right of the symbol.*



## PREPPING GUIDE - Target Hardening for SHTF

Download latest updated version online at [superessestraps.com](http://superessestraps.com)

### **TARGET HARDENING**

During peaceful times, targeting hardening can prevent criminal activity and increase safety/security of life and property. This section of the guide should be implemented immediately as it is vital both during periods relative normality and during a declared state of emergency.

The purpose is to reduce the desire, ability, and opportunity for crime to take place on your property. This includes activities such as prowlers, trespassers, breaking and entering, burglary, home invasion, assaults, larcenies, vandalism, etc. For the purpose of this guide we will call any unwanted guest, marauder, or criminal; a suspect, because their presence on your property is suspicious.

These tips will increase natural surveillance, impede concealment of suspicious activity, and secure access points.

**TERRITORIALITY** - This is the of exterior design and layout which implies the area is occupied, private property, and cared/maintained. This ties into the “Broken Windows” theory that found an area that is unkempt is more susceptible to a degradation of the area.

- ❑ Keep yard clean, landscaped, litter/clutter free.
  - ➔ You should be able to notice if something is out of place and recognize it as a clue of suspicious activity.
- ❑ Clearly define the the public(roadway in front of property), semi-public(sidewalk), semi-private(front card, porch/patio), and private zones(fenced back yard, interior of buildings).
  - ➔ Use paving, landscaping, fencing, signage, etc to define these zones.

**ACCESS CONTROL** - This is the “design” which deters entry from non-preferred area and allows for securing primary entry points.

- ❑ Design driveway, perimeter, fencing, walking paths, etc; in a manner which directs visitors to the preferred entry point.
  - ➔ A line of bushes across the front yard, flower beds, fencing can show that someone is not supposed to cross there and if they do, they are a suspect.
  - ➔ A sidewalk or pathway leading to your front door will also define the design that you want people to only approach your front door using that path. If you see anyone approaching your home from a path not designed to go to your intended point of entry, they are a suspect. This gives you time to secure your doors, call for assistance, and gather self defensive weapons.
  - ➔ The idea is to make it obvious to you and your neighbors that someone unwanted is on your property so that precautions and actions can be taken.



## PREPPING GUIDE - Target Hardening for SHTF

Download latest updated version online at [superessestraps.com](http://superessestraps.com)

**PERIMETER BARRICADES** - This is the use of fencing, bollards, poles, trees, and barriers to protect the outer area of your curtilage.

- ❑ Fencing. Consider if fencing should be “privacy”, which conceals your property/valuables and actions within, or if it should be non-opaque which would allow for neighbors and first responders to observe for suspicious activity. There is no right choice for everyone.
  - Chain Link: Should be 7’ high with no more than 2” cross webbing.
  - Wood/Stick Built: Boards should be vertical to prevent climbing.
  - Wrought Iron: Use spear points on top of fence to deter climbing.
- ❑ Vehicle Barriers. Use these to control access to property and prevent vehicle borne attacks or vehicle crashes on property.
  - Jersey Barriers
  - Bollards
  - 4x4 Posts
  - Curbs (offers limited protection)
  - Mature Trees
- ❑ Install gated entry with locking feature.

**LANDSCAPE TACTICS** - This is the employment of purposeful placement and/or maintenance of foliage, trees, bushes, and earth materials.

- ❑ Trees that may be a climbing aid, should be 10’ from any building to prevent access to roof or top levels. Overhanging limbs should be 6’ from buildings.
- ❑ Trees should be trimmed up 7’ so that overhanging foliage does not offer concealment of activity.
- ❑ Bushes should be trimmed down to 2’ so not to offer concealment and should be trimmed down 6” from windows.
- ❑ Hostile Bushes: Plantlife in front of windows or areas of interest should be thorny, poisonous, or otherwise non permissive.
- ❑ Landscaping rocks can be placed in front of windows or around base of home as it acts as a noise maker which alerts residence to presence of activity.
- ❑ Landscaping should be designed to improve sight lines and natural surveillance. You do not want high bushes or trees around entry points or windows as it conceals suspicious activity.



## PREPPING GUIDE - Target Hardening for SHTF

Download latest updated version online at [superessestraps.com](http://superessestraps.com)

**SIGNAGE** - Use signs to display messages and provide information.

- ☐ Street Numbers should be displayed on mailbox, front entry driveway, and residence. They should be at least 3" high and have a reflective property.
- ☐ No Trespassing Signs posted at access points. (this is also part of your access control)
- ☐ 🔍 Purple Paint around perimeter to show private property lines and no trespassing. The "Purple Paint Law" varies by State but typically requires an 8" stripe of paint on a tree/post, 3-5 feet from grade, every 100' along perimeter.
- ☐ Security/Alarm Signage. Post signage displaying that you have a security or alarm system.
- ☐ Camera Signage. Post signs that show you have cameras and if it is monitored 24/7.
- ☐ Message/Warning Signage. "Beware of Dog", "Electrified Fence", and other signage should be posted around perimeter.

**LIGHTING** - This is the use of always-on and motion lighting inside and outside the home to increase visibility, alert to motion, and deter crime.

- ☐ Street Lighting - Your housing development, HOA, our State/Local government lighting along public roadways should be placed so that all portions of the road have illumination along residential streets. Petition these groups to have lighting installed and serviced.
- ☐ Porch/Door Lighting - You should keep all doorways illuminated at night. These lights do not need to be on a timer, their intent is to insure anyone at your doors can be seen.
- ☐ Interior Lighting - There should be at least 2 lights in two separate areas left on while you are home or away. Alternate which lights are on. Place lights on a timer that varies schedules.
- ☐ Exterior Lighting - There should be no areas of dark shadows in close proximity (25') to your home, outbuildings, driveway entry, or other points of obvious pathways.
  - ☐ Motion Lights should be installed on all sides of home. Motion Lights should be positioned along the exterior of your curtilage to illuminate areas beyond 25' of your home.
    - Consider 🔍 networked motion lights, these are lights that send a signal to the other motion lights causing them all to activate when just one senses motion.
    - Consider 🔍 solar motion lights. These work even when there is a power outage and save you from having to change batteries on power draining battery motion lights.



## PREPPING GUIDE - Target Hardening for SHTF

Download latest updated version online at [superessestraps.com](http://superessestraps.com)

**EARLY ALERT SYSTEM** - These are methods of setting audible and visual alarms that will trigger when a suspect is near your homestead.

- ❑ Motion Alarm - The alarms are often called 🔍 driveway motion alarms. It includes an interior home station unit that plugged into a wall outlets and uses bluetooth, radio, or another near field communication signal to send an alarm to the home station unit when the motion is detected by the exterior motion sensors. The sensors usually are battery operated and should be tested bi-monthly for operation. Each home station includes the option of 2 to 8 sensors, each of which can often be set to signal a different sounding alarm, and many home stations will also display on the unit which alarm was activated. Position the sensors at the front driveway, other pathways to the homestead, and other points of interests. Label and program the home station so that you know which sensor corresponds to which location.
- ❑ Motion Lights - These lights can warn you visually of intruders on your property. If the lights are not networked they can also alert you as to the direction/location the intruder came from or is at. The mere activation of light often can deter a would be suspect into leaving. The draw back is you have to see the lights turn on to receive the warning, so motion lights alone will not alert you when you are asleep.
- ❑ Bells/Chimes - Placing noise makers on gated fences, doors, mailbox, windows, storage boxes, and equipment left outside; can all be a warning if someone is attempting to enter your property or steal something.
- ❑ K9. Yea, a dog is an alarm also. Dogs not only will bark when they hear suspicious behavior (or the mailman) but they also offer a last line of defense of their owner.
- ❑ ⚠️ 🔍 Trip Wire - There are many variations of trip wire activate early alert systems. Each includes a length of line/string (monofilament fishing line, kite string, wire etc) that is set across an area between two fixed posts/trees/building. The line is pulled tight so that any touch of the string will activate the alert.
  - ➔ 🔍 Tin Can Trip Wire: Tie a trip wire line and then hang tin cans with rocks inside (this causes a clanking sound) or use small glass bottles close together or anything else you can improvise that will make a sound when the string is disturbed. Bells are an obvious choice. Set the wire low so it serves as a trip hazard, or knee height to avoid injuring a friendly person that unintentionally triggers it. Hang the noise makers near trees or behind bushes along the length of the line so they are not detected.
  - ➔ Trip Hazard: Tie a trip wire line at ankle height to cause intruder to trip, fall, injure themselves, and potential make enough sound for you to know of their presence.



## PREPPING GUIDE - Target Hardening for SHTF

Download latest updated version online at [superessestraps.com](http://superessestraps.com)

- 🔍 Mousetrapped Alarm: There are many variations of using a mouse trap, here are a few options, not all may be legal. These alarms involve a trip wire tied to the holding arm of a mouse trap so that when the arm is pulled out by the wire being touched, the hammer will swing making a loud sound or activating a modification alarm.
- ◆ For all the below alarms follow these instructions first. Remove holding arm. Remove bait holder catch. Remove holding bar but leave U-loop in place.. Straighten bait holder catch with pliers. Remove arm of spring temporarily to ensure it will not activate. Pull hammer to activated side.
    - Basic Mouse Trap Alarm: To make a mouse trap only alarm which uses only the sound of the mouse trap hammer slapping the wood base. Replace the arm of spring, tie loose end of trip wire to the holding bar, set trap by placing tension on the hammer and holding in place then insert holding bar into U-loop and over the hammer. Ensure that there is no slack in the trip wire. It will be difficult to find the amount of tension needed on the trip wire to avoid slack but not to tight to pull the holding bar out until tripped.
    - 🔍 Cap Gun Trip Wire Modification - A cap gun cap averages about 153 decibels when fired. You can add these caps to your mouse trap. Wrap a length of duct tape around the wood plank on the hammering side where the hammer hits the wood. Then tap 2-3 small nails into the wood directly under where the hammer hits. You want the nails heads on the top of the trap and the nail heads should be small enough to fit inside standard ring caps. Remove 2-3 ring caps and place on top of the nail heads. You can use glue to hold them in place. When the trap is activated and then set off the hammer will hit the ring caps into the nails causing a loud pop sound.
    - 🔍 Chem Light Trip Wire Modification - This involves placing a glow stick or chem light on the hammering side of the wood plank so that when the hammer is activated it will pop the glow stick and cause it to glow. This will only allow a light based location alert that is required to be seen to alarm you.



## PREPPING GUIDE - Target Hardening for SHTF

Download latest updated version online at [superessestraps.com](http://superessestraps.com)

- 🔍 Primer Trip Wire Modification- This involves installing a housing unit for a shotgun shell, blank round, rifle round, bullet round, etc. The idea is to cause the hammer to hit the primer and cause the ammunition to fire.
- 🔍 9 Volt Trip Wire Modification - There are endless methods of using a 9 Volt battery to power sound and light alarms. The basic premise is using the trip wire to cause the positive and negative terminals of the battery to connect thus powering whatever alarm is being used. A basic christmas light bulb or noise alarm can be wired to the battery so that when the circuit is completed they will activate.

**RESOURCES** - This is the utilization of others to decrease the chance of suspicious behavior.

- ❑ Neighborhood Watch, join or create a community watch program. Often your local law enforcement agency can assist in setting one up and can even provide signs for your neighborhood to show visitors a watch program is active in your area. This is basically the idea that neighbors are watching for suspicious behavior and will report it to law enforcement and other neighbors.
- ❑ Law Enforcement - Most Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices offer unattended property checks so that when you are out of town you can request you home be checked on periodically. They can also perform special attention checks in areas where you have reported suspicious activity. Extra patrols like these options decrease crime and give you a sense of security.
- ❑ Friends and Family - If you are away from home, have a friend or family member check on your home and collected mail.
- ❑ ⚠️ NERT and CERT - These are groups either established by FEME or your local neighborhood members. They are designed to aid after an emergency. Due to the training, meetings, and opportunities offered by such groups; they are ideal to incorporate into your worst case scenario target hardening plan.



## PREPPING GUIDE - Target Hardening for SHTF

Download latest updated version online at [superessestraps.com](http://superessestraps.com)

**ENTRY POINT SECURITY** - Ensure your windows and doors are secure against routine breaking and entering attempts and can withstand a kick or strike. It goes without saying these entry ways should remain locked when unattended.

### ❑ Doors.

- Should offer 2-3 locking mechanisms with at least one deadbolt. Deadbolt should be set into a strike plate secured with at least 3" screws.
- Door Chain Lock can be installed for a minimal level of security when speaking with someone through a semi-open door.
- Peephole. Peephole should offer 220 degree view or greater. Peephole should have a cover.

### ❑ Windows.

- Keep windows locked when not in use for air circulation and always keep locked when you are not home.
- Upgrade windows with improvised security methods.
  - ◆ Double Hung Windows (the type where the lower half of the window raised up and the top half is fixed) put some screws or nails about 6 inches up above the lower window so that you can still open window but a suspect can not fit through.
  - ◆ Many other type of windows can be secured in this same method. Study the window and see if a nail or screw could be added.
- Grates, Wire Mesh, Bars, Shutters.
  - ◆ Shutters offer great protection from the elements and can be designed to lock from the inside. They also are the most visually appealing but they also block light.
  - ◆ ⚠ Wire Mesh, Bars, and Shutters may be against some fire codes so check local laws. They should be easily opened or removed from the inside in the event you have to egress.
- Upgrade glass.
  - ◆ 🔍 Reinforced glass such as laminated or tempered will offer more protection and take multiple strikes to break.
  - ◆ 🔍 Polycarbonate and Plexiglas are your best option though a little more costly. They allow light in but are just about as secure as adding steel bars.





## PREPPING GUIDE - Target Hardening for SHTF

Download latest updated version online at [superessestraps.com](http://superessestraps.com)

**ALARM SYSTEM** - This is the use of monitored or unmonitored alarms to deter an intruder and alert you or first responders.

- ❑ **Monitored.** These systems are linked with a paid monitoring service that will contact 911 on your behalf if the alarm is tripped and not deactivated in a set period of time.
  - Technology used in modern alarm systems.
    - ◆ Passive Infrared Motion Detectors.
    - ◆ Ultrasonic Detectors.
    - ◆ Microwave Detectors.
    - ◆ Magnetic Switches.
    - ◆ Photoelectric Beams.
    - ◆ Glass Break Detectors.
  - When alarm is activated and not deactivated in a short period of time, the alarm company calls the 911 center or local PD, who then takes down the information, and dispatches an officer to your home. If there was not an actual emergency and the alarm was activated by accident, answer the phone, because your alarm company will be calling to check in on you and get your code to cancel. If an officer was dispatched and it is an emergency, attempt to call 911 also and don't solely rely on the alarm for help.
- ❑ **Non-Monitored.** These systems are a localized audible/visual alarm only and will not initiate a 911 call.
  - Alarms can be bought online that attach to windows or doors. They use magnets, IR, motion sensors, or haptic feedback to detect when a door or window is opened or in some cases broken. They are cheap starting at about \$10.
  - Car Alarms. Use your key fob to sound an outside alarm if you suspect someone is breaking in or trespassing. It's an immediate deterrent as it draws attention from neighbors and may scare away the suspect.
    - ◆ Keep your key fob by your bed at night.
  - Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, etc. Don't neglect other harms that could threaten your family. These alarms are just as important as anti-intrusion alarms. Install them on every floor, bedroom, and kitchen.



## PREPPING GUIDE - Target Hardening for SHTF

Download latest updated version online at [superessestraps.com](http://superessestraps.com)

### **GARAGE** - Be cautious when entering and exiting your garage.

- ☐ Have an automatic garage door opener, use it to gain access to your garage without having to get out of your vehicle in the event there are suspects hiding on side of house or bushes.
- ☐ Consider parking outside if there are too many areas that suspect could be hiding to ambush you upon your arrival home.
- ☐ If you are leaving, check outside by looking through windows before opening and leaving your garage. Install a bubble mirror outside on corners of garage if applicable.
- ☐ Know how to open and close garage in the event of a power outage.
- ☐ Keep interior door of garage locked.

### **PLAN AND TRAIN** - Nothing is better than knowing what to do and how to do it in an emergency at home. There are endless categories of planning but we'll just cover three to get you started.

- ☐ Fire Plan. Your family should know what to do if a smoke detector alarms or fire/smoke is detected. Know where the doors and windows are, how to open them, and where you will rally.
  - Call 911 after you have escaped your home.
  - Don't go back in for pets. Install a "Pet's are inside" sign for First Responders
  - Know where your fire extinguishers are.
- ☐ Bug Out Plan. This plan should involve coordinating with your inner circle to determine when to shelter in place or when to leave home to a bugout location. It should involved knowing how to pack a bugout bag, INCH loadout, and how to outfit your [vehicle for egress](#).
  - Consider our [ICERS](#) plan to cover your planning needs.
- ☐ Home Defense Plan. This covers everything from what to do when a suspect enters your property (will you go outside and confront or will you move to a panic room) to making sure you have alternative means to [power](#) your home and resources.

### **CAMERAS** - Record and/or monitor the activities in and around your home. The mere threat of cameras in operation is arguably even more of a deterrent of crime than a standard alarm system.

- Consider installing cameras through your monitored alarm company.
- Consider installing wireless cameras that are recorded to the cloud and able to be viewed on your smartphone and received push notifications when motion is detected.
- Consider a doorbell ring type of camera.




### **TRAPS** - There are countless booby traps for home defense ranging from Punji Stake Traps, Dead Fall Traps, Snare Traps, and of course the basic Trip Wire. Search online for ideas and adjust them to fit your needs for home defense.



## PREPPING GUIDE - Target Hardening for SHTF

Download latest updated version online at [superessestraps.com](http://superessestraps.com)

 **PANIC ROOM / BUNKER** - Consider the option of building a panic room into an empty space or area of your home such as a false wall in a closet or a finished area in the crawl space under the kitchen island. Consider if there is a need for a secure bunker or underground room with quick access from your home.

**EVACUATION** - Thinking tactically in your neighborhood so that multiple avenues of egress are considered. There are occasions where your neighborhood roads or even your driveway may be undrivable or unsafe. Know the surrounding area is a must.

☐ When would you need to bugout quickly?

- Rolling wildfire.
- Home invasion.
- SHTF Bugout.
- Flood.
- Pandemic.
- Evacuation notice for nearby nuclear plant.
- Group of marauders.

☐ What to do?

- Have egress routes planned. Take note of trails, firebreaks, sewer tunnels, alleyways, etc.
- Take note of locations of bodies of water, underground gas lines, bridges, thick underbrush, etc.
- Have a survival cache nearby.
- Have a safe house in the area, such as a trusted neighbor.
- Know where main highways are.
- Know compass directions of points of interest.
- Have rally point planned and know by members of your group.
- Carry your [bug out bag](#) with you, store it in a easy to access place so it can quickly be grabbed during egress.
- Make a plan of action (such as [ICERS](#)) and share it with members of your group.



## PREPPING GUIDE - Target Hardening for SHTF

Download latest updated version online at [superessestraps.com](http://superessestraps.com)

## 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.superessestraps.com/products/icers](http://www.superessestraps.com/products/icers)

### ELG: EMERGENCY LOADOUT GUIDES

There are 6 guides in the ELG Series. Download the series at [www.superessestraps.com/collections/resources](http://www.superessestraps.com/collections/resources)

### PREPPING AND SURVIVAL GUIDES

Checkout our digital library of topical guides for converting your [phone into a survival tool](#), caching supplies, [fishing during the apocalypse](#), [hardening your home during SHTF](#), [siphoning fuel](#), and more. View them all at [www.superessestraps.com/collections/resources](http://www.superessestraps.com/collections/resources)

## GEAR

### SUPERESSE GEAR

You have access to our customer discount of 25% off all our [survival straps](#), [patch kits](#), [carryall bags](#), [hanks](#), and more. Use promo code “GETANOTHER” at checkout. Choose from a collection of wearable gear and micro tin kits that can be used to outfit your Emergency Loadouts.

## SUMMARY

This is a working document. Content such as gear suggestions, tips, packing ideas, and other info will be updated as we deem fit. You'll receive email notifications along with a download link.