



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<https://fir.foundation/>

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# Can America's Handle a Grid Down Incident Like Southern Europe's?

In the wake of grid down disasters such as the North Carolina floods, the California fires, Puerto Rico's grid failure and yesterday's grid failure in Spain, Portugal and Southern France, the Foundation for Infrastructure Resilience (FIR) is urging individuals, families, and businesses to take proactive steps toward preparedness. Emergencies can strike at any time, and being prepared can mean the difference between life and death.

Disasters, whether hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, or power outages, often occur with little to no warning. The key to minimizing damage and loss is readiness. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), nearly 60% of Americans have not practiced what to do in a disaster, and only 39% have developed an emergency plan.

### Why Preparedness Matters:

- **Ensures Safety:** Knowing how to respond quickly can save lives and reduce injuries.
- **Reduces Panic:** Having a plan in place eliminates confusion and chaos in high-stress situations.
- **Minimizes Losses:** Preparing in advance can protect property and assets, reducing financial impact.
- **Speeds Up Recovery:** Well-prepared individuals and businesses can recover faster and resume normalcy sooner.

### Steps to Take Now:

1. **Create an Emergency Plan:** Establish communication and evacuation strategies for your household and workplace.
2. **Assemble a Disaster Kit:** Stock up on essentials such as water, non-perishable food, medications, and first-aid supplies. Have a kit with you in your car or workplace should you be unable to easily get home.
3. **Stay Informed:** Monitor local news and weather alerts to stay ahead of potential threats.
4. **Practice Regularly:** Conduct drills to ensure everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.

"Preparedness is not just about survival; it's about resilience," said Mike Poynter, of the Foundation for Infrastructure Resilience. "We encourage everyone to take the necessary steps now to protect themselves and their loved ones." Lt. Col. Steve Chill USMC (Ret.) added, "my contacts in Spain have pointed out a disaster where stores only take cash, food refrigeration is failing, and panic is ensuing. I recently wrote a paper on what happens when the grid fails for 30 days, and the results are disastrous. Americans must be prepared, and we are not. We take our phones, bank cards, cars, GPS and many other items for granted each and every day."

*Mike Poynter has over 40 years of experience in emergency services and disaster response.*