

Part 3 Implications of a Widespread Infrastructure Collapse

It could happen here!

Just how severe could a statewide or region-wide *infrastructure collapse* be if an emergency or crisis lasts more than a couple of weeks without relief? Most likely, it would affect everything! – power, food, water, fuel, transportation, communications and emergency response. If it were due to an EMP/HEMP, it could damage or destroy the electrical grid, along with electronics and microchips on which our society depends! This level of crisis could lead to numerous critical events:

- 1) **Timespan and extent** issues – the longer and more widespread the crisis, the more devastating the impact because of insufficient resources and/or inadequate response.
- 2) **Crippled relief effort** or no response at all due to insufficient personnel and equipment, poor information and communications, and inadequate supply and distribution systems – and responders will likely begin having their own problems. If due to a HEMP, it could destroy GPS even if it did not take out the power grid, severely disrupting the supply chain and navigational systems.
- 3) A complete **Banking shutdown** and possible collapse of the **Monetary system**; no banking, ATM, or credit/debit card transactions.
 - Bartering may become necessary. In other words, you must have what others are willing to trade for. But beware! – others might try to steal what you have.
 - NOTE: Your personal bank accounts are maintained electronically. Without electricity, you have no account and no money! Even so, banks do not have a sufficient supply of hard currency on hand for high demand.
- 4) **Communications** are dependent on electricity, and without it, there would be no internet, radio, cable or satellite TV; landline and cell phones will be dead or useless. Battery operated two-way radios may work but have limited range.
 - This scenario is hard to conceive of for those who have never lived without these.
- 5) **Transportation** systems will fail due to lack of available fuel and traffic control systems; this will affect the delivery of goods and services, emergency response capabilities, and limit the mass movement of people by personal vehicles, busses, trains, trucks, and airplanes.
- 6) **Medical infrastructure failure** – hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and pharmacies will be overwhelmed or non-functioning; people who are dependent on certain medications or medical treatments such as dialysis, diabetics, chemotherapy, or emergency surgery will be at high risk; an increase in deaths and sicknesses; a greater potential for the spread of contagious diseases; pharmacies will be pillaged for “drugs of choice” by desperate people, addicts and criminals.
- 7) **Unsanitary conditions** due to nonfunctioning toilet facilities, contaminated water, and poor hygiene resulting in serious health issues, infections, sicknesses, and epidemics.