

# DISASTER EFFECTS TIMELINE

## THE FIRST 90 DAYS

Our retail system operates on a delivery model called “just in time delivery”. Gone are the days of stockpiles of goods in the back of stores. It is ordered now when it is automatically inventoried by the checkout scanner barcode. When the internet, distribution facilities, delivery services, and stocking personnel are all operating normally, you don’t notice any shortages. It wouldn’t take much to catapult the system into chaos- a trucker’s strike, a computer virus, widespread illness, etc. The delivery and sales of goods is a fragile veneer we take for granted. Imagine the worst case scenario of a grid down situation and consider the consequences. In 1906, Alfred Henry Lewis stated, “There are only nine meals between mankind and anarchy.” Consider how true this is in today’s world. How many people do you know have enough food and supplies on hand to last for 30 days? Can you live off of the supplies you have for 2 weeks without any outside assistance? In the event of a grid down situation this is an expected timeline of events compiled from multiple sources.

### DAYS 1-3

Everyone will be relatively calm; computer service interruptions will prevent retail sales, banking, and ordering of needed goods and supplies will start to dwindle. This will fuel panic buying, leading to further shortages. Outages lasting into the third day will probably lead to looting and increased civil disturbances. Curfews may be established; service stations will run out of fuel (if they are able to pump it due to power outages) and food shortages develop. Municipal sanitation will begin to backlog, ATMs will run out of cash and banks will close. The first 24 hours is your “golden window” to determine if you should shelter in place or “bug out”. Anticipate municipal utility outages and act accordingly. With growing anxiety and civil unrest, you will need to implement extra safety and security measures.

### WEEK 1

Supplies are gone, medicine is running out, hospitals are running low on supplies, and services are curtailed. Emergency services are overwhelmed. Martial law may be introduced. Water supplies in cities will stop running. Sewage treatment plants are non-functioning. Natural gas will cease to flow, circulating cash is very low and bartered items such as food and medicine are starting to take its place. Desperate people will use the cloak of darkness to carry out their nefarious deeds, necessitating increased security measures to ensure your safety. News of the “outside world” is scarce and may be more fiction than fact. Establish communication protocols to gather reliable intelligence such as 2-way radio, police scanner, or other means

than word of mouth. Most automobile traffic will cease due to lack of fuel and hospitals will run low on oxygen supplies.

## WEEK 2

Crime, looting, and marauding will arise and groups will start to form. Roads are littered with abandoned vehicles and some will be living in them. International borders are closed, emergency service workers have abandoned their jobs to take care of their families, and martial law is securely in place. You will want to maintain the highest level of personal security, observing light discipline to prevent anyone from knowing your location. Cooking smells will need to be discreet to prevent being overrun and your supplies looted. Stay put and stay hidden.

## WEEK 3

There are no signs of recovery or communication. Any vehicle movement is to be considered a sign of danger. Hope of national level recovery is gone. Marauding gangs of thieves are the primary danger. Most of your attention is centered on self-sufficiency and forming alliances with neighbors or community members you can rely on. Keep your supplies secret to keep them from becoming a target, but offer small amounts to those in need, or for barter. You cannot survive alone and will need community support.

## MONTHS 1-2

Your prepping skills make you a primary source of information to your group. Those with medical experience should be established in a clinical setting, persons with military or law enforcement backgrounds should be overseeing security matters. Expect food rationing. It won't take long for those around you to find out who has food and who does not. Work with and not against them for the good of all. Wild game will be nearly non-existent, as will many pets.

## MONTH 3

Feudalistic style conflicts arise between groups vying for supplies. It is expected that using low estimates 1/3 of the population will not survive a SHTF scenario. Elderly, those dependent on medical procedures such as dialysis, home oxygen, or medication are most vulnerable. Aside from those in fragile health, violence, starvation, dehydration, illness, and exposure to the elements will take its toll. Trade and alliances may have been established with nearby communities. Neighborhoods will look post-apocalyptic and travel will be by 19<sup>th</sup> century

means. Municipal utilities are a memory and you must gather food and water daily within your group.