CRP Ready Room | Briefing Paper

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Title: Living Water: A 30-Day Guide to Family Water Security in Times of Crisis
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I. Executive Summary

In any catastrophic event, be it a natural disaster, an act of war, or a total grid failure (EMP/GMD), the most immediate threat to human life is the loss of potable water. Most American households are less than 72 hours away from a hydration crisis. This paper outlines the essential steps for a family of four to secure, store, and treat water during the first 30 days of a "No-Flow" event.

II. The Scriptural Mandate

"*But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever*." (1 Tim 5:8).

As Christians, readiness is not rooted in fear, but in the stewardship of the lives God has entrusted to us. By preparing our households, we ensure that we are not a burden on an overstretched system, but rather a resource of hope and assistance to our neighbors. It also provides a comfort to our family to know that they have some level of security.

III. Water is Not Optional: The Biological Reality

When I do workshops or other presentations; there are always some in the group

who do not understand that my first point of addressing these challenges is not electricity. There is a reason behind this. We can live without electrical power. It is not easy to our modern minds to adapt. It is not convenient. But we can live and thrive without the power company.

Water on the other hand is not optional. It is possible to live for a comparatively long time without a full meal. It is impossible to live very long without water. City dwellers are very dependant on utility companies for almost everything, especially water. Increasingly, us country folks have that same dependance. And modern wells are too small to drop a bucket into and draw up the liquid.

Water is the "universal solvent" of the human body. While the body can survive weeks without food, it has no mechanism for water storage. In a crisis, water serves three non-negotiable functions:

A. Metabolic Regulation: Blood is roughly 90% water. Dehydration causes blood to thicken, skyrocketing heart rate and causing kidney failure.

B. Thermoregulation: In stress or heat, the body uses sweat to prevent the brain from overheating. Dehydration leads to "brain fog" and poor decision-making.

C. Pathogen Defense: Internal hydration keeps mucosal membranes moist (your first line of defense against illness). Externally, usable water prevents dysentery—the leading killer in historic wartime environments.

IV. The Threat Landscape

Many different things may happen to cut off our flow of water. Here are some descriptions of most of them:

Tier 1: Localized Failure. Water main breaks or E. coli contamination. Water

may run, but it is "non-potable" and must be treated.

Tier 2: Regional Disaster. Floods or hurricanes overwhelm treatment plants with raw sewage. The "tap" becomes a source of poison.

Tier 3: The "Black Sky" Event. Total grid collapse (EMP). Pumps fail, and gravity-fed reservoirs empty in 24–48 hours. Dry pipes may then suck in contaminated groundwater.

Tier 4: Intentional Contamination. Wartime targeting of water sources with chemical or biological agents.

Reference: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (2023). Food and Water in an Emergency (Manual P-489).

V. The Math of Survival: Family of Four

A. Daily Ration Breakdown:

1. Drinking: 2 Quarts per person (2 Gallons total)
2. Food Prep: 1 Quart per person (1 Gallon total)
3. Basic Hygiene: 1 Quart per person (1 Gallon total)
4. Total Minimum: 1 Gallon per person, per day (4 Gallons total).

B. The 30-Day Goal: Your 4-person household requires 120 Gallons of stored or treated water for the first month.

VI. Immediate Actions (Hours 1–72)

A. The Bathtub Strategy: Standard tubs leak and are unsanitary. Use a "WaterBob" (food-grade liner) to hold up to 100 gallons. Fill this

immediately before municipal pressure fails.

B. The Water Heater Reserve: Your home has a hidden 40–80 gallon reservoir. To Access: Turn off gas/power. Close the cold-water inlet valve. Open a "hot" faucet upstairs to vent air. Drain water from the bottom spigot.

C. Gravity Filters: Use 0.1-micron hollow-fiber filters (Sawyer/LifeStraw) for any water that is clear but biologically suspect.

VII. Short-Term Solutions (Weeks 1–4)

A. Rainwater Harvesting: A 1,000-sq-ft roof collects 600 gallons per inch of rain. Divert the first 10 gallons (the "First Flush") to discard roof debris and bird droppings. Use opaque blue barrels to prevent algae.

B. Chemical Disinfection (Bleach Protocol): Use unscented, regular strength (6%–8.25%) bleach. * Clear Water: 8 drops per gallon.

    1. Cloudy/Cold Water: 16 drops per gallon.

    2. Wait: 30 minutes. If no slight chlorine smell is present, repeat and wait 15 more minutes.

Reference: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (2023). Emergency Disinfection of Drinking Water (816-F-15-003).

VIII. Water Readiness Checklist

Instructions: Print this list. Check monthly to ensure bleach is fresh (replaces every 6 months) and filters are intact.

[ ] Static Storage: 120 Gallons (Stored in cool, dark place).

[ ] Bathtub Liner: 1 Unit (Stored in bathroom).

[ ] Unscented Bleach: 2 Quarts (Check expiration date).

[ ] Eye Dropper: 2 Units (For exact dosing).

[ ] 0.1 Micron Filter: 2 Units (Sawyer Squeeze or similar).

[ ] Wrench: 1 Unit (For water heater drain valve).

Looking Ahead

This paper addresses the acute phase. Should the interruption exceed 30 days, your strategy must shift from storage to engineered production. Watch for future Briefing Papers:

Briefing Paper 2: Long-Term Procurement and Bio-Filtration.

Briefing Paper 3: Off-Grid Sanitation and Waste Management.

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