

Glendora II Emergency Preparedness, 5/30/10

Fuel Storage Ideas for Disasters or Extended Power Outages

Cooking:

- Matches (waterproof and/or waterproof container), lighters, fire starter kits, etc. Most of the fuel below doesn't work well without starting a fire.
- Propane BBQ w/ side stove burner for pots/pans. Can even get a propane camp oven. This can be great for emergencies, because it's easy, and it's very similar to how you already cook.
- Extra propane BBQ tanks – store outdoors, upright. Need to consider the “kid” factor.
- Charcoal for dutch oven and/or BBQ (can also make simple cookers that use the heat more efficiently). Very inexpensive fuel. Store out of direct sunlight and in a container that will keep it dry. Keeps indefinitely in airtight metal or plastic containers. Don't forget the newspapers and funnel lighting device (can make from #10 can).
- Wood (free when trimming your own trees or helping neighbor).
- Solar cooker – can make very inexpensively. Some designs work adequately well. Learn to cook with it. Solarcooking.wiki.com has a comparison of various designs.
- Sterno; Sterno stove. Safe to store and cook indoors. Can be good for short term needs. However, evaporates over time, so long-term storage is problematic. A relatively expensive fuel.
- Alcohol, alcohol cooker (can make out of soda can). Much safer than white gas, but still best stored outside of house, poisonous, so caution in storing. See zenstoves.net
- White gas and camping stove. Dangerous to store, evaporates easily, making long-term storage difficult, but works well. Hard to store very much fuel. Don't cook with gasoline made for vehicles.

Household power:

- Extra batteries
- Solar Panel ideas: Portable solar panel to charge cell phones, etc. Landscaping solar lights, can move indoors during power outage. Roof solar panels (very expensive, but may be a consideration if you are redoing your roof).
- Generator for very short-term needs (1-2 days; burns lots of gasoline)

Vehicles:

- How to safely and easily store 7 gallons (assuming you have a 15-gallon tank) of gasoline for your car anywhere you go, without any extra cost—always refill when you reach ½ tank. Think of half a tank as *empty*.
- Gasoline is very dangerous to store; only small quantities. Illegal to store in anything but approved gasoline containers. Gasoline will not store very long, so must add a fuel stabilizer (or be frequently rotated).

Tools for Emergencies (some ideas, far from all-inclusive)

Cooking tools:

- Ax and saw for getting more wood.
- Can opener, hand operated (get a spare)
- Wheat grinders, both electric and hand operated

Miscellaneous

- First aid kits, extra medication/prescription drugs, spare prescription glasses. Waterproof pen. Paper.
- LED flashlight; small radio (possibly hand cranked), extra batteries. Keep a flashlight on kitchen counter or other accessible location.
- Wrench stored at gas meter to turn off gas valve if house gets significantly damaged in EQ (can paint valve and wrench yellow). Wrench to turn off water service (practice, and store next to valve or meter).
- Building tools (especially hand-operated) and supplies
- Protective clothing (hard hat, safety glasses, gloves, heavy clothing, sturdy shoes/boots, etc.). Cold- and wet-weather clothing (earthquakes can happen any time of the year). You need to keep yourself safe, so you can help others.
- Easily accessed camping gear (tents, sleeping bags, etc.) stored outside of your house, in case of significant structural damage to your house during an EQ. Use combination locks, since keys can easily be lost.
- If you have a shed, this is a great place to store emergency supplies, in case of structural damage to your house or garage. You can also store items in water resistant containers under a covered patio. Try to secure supplies from theft, weather damage, and kid damage.