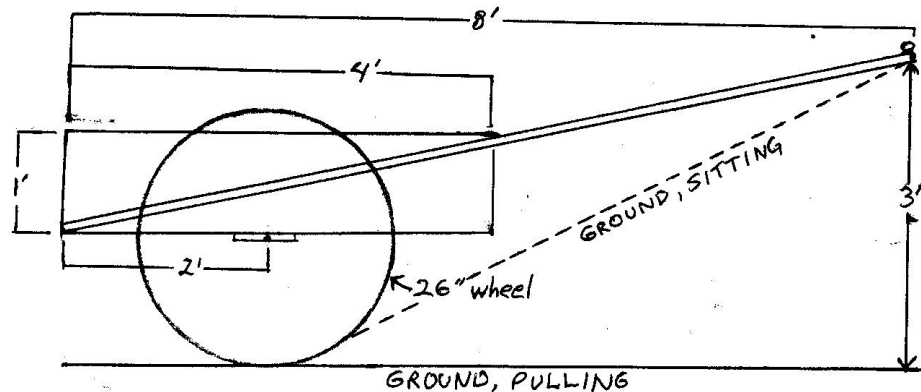


## Handcart for Emergencies: DIY!



The poorest Mormons who immigrated to Utah in the 1800s couldn't afford covered wagons. They used wooden handcarts they pulled themselves. In an emergency, a Modernized Mormon Handcart might work for you. You can carry your water bottles in it!

Here's a design that uses one piece of 4' x 8' x 3/8"- or 1/2"-thick plywood and two 26" bicycle front wheels. You will also need" one 1"-diameter dowel, 4' long; 8 2"x2"x8's; 1' of 1"x1" 90° steel angle iron; 5' of 5/16"-diameter all-thread rod for an axle; and assorted nuts, bolts, screws, stiff wire, etc.

Cut the plywood in half. Cut the other half into 12" x 48" pieces. Make a box using the 4x4 as a bottom and the 12"x48" pieces as sides. I suggest screwing 2x2s to the bottom, then screwing the 12"x48" pieces to the 2x2s. Cut some 2x2s to go upward to screw sides to sides. Cut the angle iron in half and drill a 5/16" axle hole in the center of each piece. Drill the other surface of the angle iron so you can bolt it through the bottom of the handcart and through the 2x2 above it. Locate your axle at the center of your handcart and bolt the angles in place.

You need draw bars to pull the handcart. Bolt these at the bottom of the box in back and at the top of the box in front. Bolt the 1" dowel "yoke" to the top front ends of the 2x2 drawbars. Use baling wire to strengthen this area. Run your axle through the holes in the angle iron. Add spacers as needed to prevent the tire from rubbing on the sides of the handcart. Cut off excess axle. If you wish, strengthen the box with 2x2s inside the top rim. You could add some 2x2s across the bottom (outside) for increased strength. Paint the handcart with two or more coats of oil-based paint that matches the ground (Camouflage! Stealth handcart!). Tie 20' of rope to the front of the handcart so others can help pull it. Store axle and wheels in the box, with draw bars pointing upward.

**Handcart rules:** Don't overload it. Don't run with it. Don't ride on it. Don't drop or sit on the yoke; it breaks. Beware the wheels. Block the wheels if stopping on an incline. Down a steep incline, put the rope on the back with some people to slow the handcart. A bicycle wheel will collapse if you go sideways up an incline, with one wheel higher than the other, and put too much weight on one wheel. (*Rules found at [www.handcart-trek.org](http://www.handcart-trek.org)*)

All Tips may be copied for incidental, non-commercial, or home use. All DisasterGuy.com Tips are tested before posting. User-submitted Tips welcomed; byline given but no reimbursement. All website content is for educational and informational use only. Copying or downloading any part of a page or using information from this website constitutes a specific release of liability to DisasterGuy.com and its affiliates for any and all damages that may result. If you attempt to make or use any Tips or other information, use safety equipment including eye, hearing, and hand protection, etc. This page Copyright DisasterGuy, Inc. 2012