

Ready Book Helps You Get Ready!

When I was in high school, my biology teacher made us keep a biology notebook. We drew a frog - "*rana pipiens*," Latin name; we drew flatworms of the phylum *Platyhelminthes*. That notebook disappeared long ago. In my mind's eye I can visualize the frog and the flatworms because I took the time to draw them.

If the power goes off and the Internet goes down, none of the DisasterGuy Tips on this website will be available. DisasterGuy Tips are printed so that you can use a 3-hole punch on the left margin. Handy, right?

Why not print the ones you think you'll need, and put them in a Ready Book? My Ready Book has sections such as: 72-Hour Kits, Shelter, Communications, Evacuation, Water, Food, Fire, Defense, Hygiene, Medical, Transportation, etc. In each section I have printed copies of articles or information that would help me in an emergency. The copies are placed in order of priority: Finding Water comes before Purifying Water, which comes before Storing Water.

Step Two: Doing Instead of Reading

The next step is to try to do the things in your Ready Book. Start with the highest priority. Make your own 72-hour kit. When you do, put a big checkmark on that page and date it. You now know how! You know because you did it.

There's a tremendous difference between **READING** and **KNOWING HOW**. Long ago I read how a master choreographer set up a dance routine for a couple on stage. I was impressed! I understood who went where, and when, according to the music. However, born with two left feet, I never danced it to learn **HOW** to do it.

In an emergency, WHAT YOU KNOW is more important than WHAT YOU HAVE READ. Even if you have a Ready Book, you may not have time to flip to the correct page, read it, and try it the first time during the emergency. You need to practice before an emergency, so you already know how to do it if an emergency occurs. How can you do this? Set aside an hour or two once a week and just do it!

Step Three: Teaching What You Do

The last step is to teach your new-found knowledge to others in your family or group, so you are not the only person who has these skills. Once they learn it, put a checkmark, a date, and their name on the Ready Book page!

By the way, no one ever learns it all. But that's no excuse for not trying!