

## Special Bug-Out Vehicles Aren't Needed!\*

"Bug-out" means leave home, hit the road for a pre-planned location, and get there safely. There's an assumption the roads will be full of nutzy people, driving will be chaotic at best, and you may have to go cross-country over hill and dale. Is the assumption true? Maybe. But where do you drive cross-country?

If you're driving a 2-1/2 ton 4WD military surplus truck with an AR-15 in the rear window, 27 gas cans on sides of the truck, and wearing military-type uniforms with no rank patches - you'll stick out like a sore thumb. When you get caught in traffic, those gas cans will look mighty good to someone else! So may the rest of your carefully acquired bug-out gear!

Part of the question is when you leave. If you leave as soon as you think there's going to be an emergency or disaster, you'll beat the crowd. Leave with the crowd; stay with the crowd. Leave very, very late, and there may be no crowd, but you might not get there at all. Choices, choices! But no clear answers.

Part of the question is how much gear you have to carry. After all, you're bugging-out so you can bug-in somewhere else! **If you have a pre-planned location, the time to stock it for an emergency is before the emergency!** If you do that, you won't need the big 4WD truck. You might do better with dirt bikes that are street-legal, because they could go around all the stalled traffic.

You might be better off driving an old car like everybody else, dressed like the rest of the refugees, with your most essential bug-out supplies hidden in your locked trunk. If you look different, act different, and have better equipment than the rest of the refugees, they'll start wondering why. I've considered buying used equipment instead of gear with the new, shiny paint. No need to advertise that you're more prepared! Camouflage is a defense.

I may be wrong, but I'm recommending against a special bug-out vehicle. Instead, make the one you own as reliable as possible. Consider adding another gas tank, which can't be seen from outside the vehicle, to extend your range. Consider putting on mud-and-snow tires and carrying chains. Consider buying a better radio with more bands and law enforcement bands, to figure out what's going on. Consider upgrading the shocks so you can haul more weight in your trunk. If your back seat is empty, consider making plywood boxes with cardboard sides, which look like they're filled with the junk someone would load in a hurry. Look so normal that no one will give you a second look - and you just might get there safely!

\*THE EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE IS IF YOU BUG OUT TO SOMEWHERE WAY OUT IN THE BOONIES!

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