

Stay Home

By Joseph Parish



Tonight, I am sitting here in my warm home while the majority of the nation is experiencing winter storm weather. I am not just talking a small amount of dusting snow on the ground but major weather issues. We received no snow what-so-ever with this storm. Snow is usually not a major issue in southern Delaware. They see it north of us as well as below our state, but it completely goes around us. The problem that I see is our snow storm was listed as a major winter storm with a very wide storm front, however it was nonexistent. The weather man on the 6 PM TV weather report inform the population that by 10 PM we can look forward to as much as 6-8 inches of snow with high wind velocities and temperatures approaching arctic coldness. Not!

If that were the case, by morning the state would have informed the populace that only essential driving could be completed. Most of the local businesses would remain closed and of course for the kids there would be no school. The radio and TV would be telling everyone to stay at home and avoid travel. Simply put they want you to stay off the roads.

As we look down the street from our house, we see many pristine lawns unmarred except for a short path of frost leading to the persons car doors. What about the instructions to remain home and avoid being on the road? Did no one understand this? The usual excuse is I need to go to the grocery store for bread or for a gallon of milk or perhaps a few supplies just in case we get snowed in. My-gosh people this is something that should have been done prior to the arrival of the storm. Get prepared!

Once this fictional storm hits an area it is not surprising to find an abundance of panic buying which results in many empty grocery store shelves. As preppers and survivalist, we often find numerous lists on the internet on what to buy in order to stock up for an emergency but these people failed to heed the warnings. A visit to the local grocery store shows long lines of shoppers waiting at the cashier to pay for the few items that were left on the shelves. Granted, some of the people may have decided to stock up ahead of time before the snow storm approached the area. Walking over to the bread aisle no loaves of bread can be found leaving the disappointed shoppers to try elsewhere. Often times a case of water

that previously sold for \$2.95 would now be re-priced to reflect a cost of \$6.95. It would appear that price gouging is a byproduct of waiting too long. These are times that the supermarkets cash in on the needs of those who waited too long to buy products for an upcoming storm.

Naturally, when the time comes and it is too late as these valuable items are no longer available on the shelves of the supermarket. Panic hoarding begins as the shopper's rush to empty the grocery store shelves. All the bread is now gone, no cartons of eggs can be found and milk is vacant from the refrigerators. It has been reported that in some emergencies the parking lots proved just about impossible to locate a space to park your car. Inside the store the scene was little different with empty coolers, what supplies were left in the back stock were grabbed as soon as the employees began placing them on the shelves. Endless lines of customers waiting at the checkout to pay for what supplies they were able to find added additional stress of the situation. At one storm area in 2014 customers shopping at the last minute had reported that their meat and bread products were quickly being swiped from their shopping carts the minute they turned their backs. Even at the gasoline pumps we find long lines of patient and sometimes not so patient customers waiting to fill their tanks. This is totally unnecessary. I personally do not like for my gasoline tank to get below half full. If I suspect an upcoming emergency it is never allowed to get below three quarters of a tank. I would suggest the same to all other people.

This is the type of scenarios that can be expected as the predicted storm approaches an area. These types of occurrences are unnecessary and can be avoided with proper precautions. Unfortunately, most people wait until the very last moment to take the steps needed to ensure their families safety.

I would like to pose a question on why these same people fail to properly stock up on necessities beforehand but when an emergency is predicted to strike their area they go overboard and hoard as much essentials as they can get their hands on? Why do they begin hoarding all manner of emergency items as if they were preparing for the arrival of the apocalypse? Perhaps the answer lies in an understanding of mob mentality. As the people see others rushing into the grocery stores to stock up on essentials by the cartload, they are subconsciously pressured into doing the same thing. Maybe they feel the shoppers they are seeing rush around and grab food and supplies might know something they do not. I once went into an Ace hardware store and purchased \$350 dollars in ammunition. Immediately as I was paying for them the clerk asked me straight out if I knew something they did not know. Had I acted suspicious and failed to comment I am certain the clerks would have done the same thing that I did. This could result in a snowball effect as more and more people convince themselves that something is happening. In the case of the snow storm something is actually is taking place however they should have been prepared beforehand and it does not justify taking more food and supplies then necessary to get over the crisis.

It has been stated that such actions begin with a desire to stock up on a few things which might not be available for several days due to lose of power or un-drivable conditions. Panic tends to set in as the customer enters the store and notices how crowded it is with other shoppers and noticing that the stores shelves are slowly start to become bare. Keep these thoughts in mind as you make your way through the winter storms this season and restrict your hoarding tendencies. Stock up on your essentials throughout the year and stay home when the winter storm arrives.