

Mannerism during a Survival Situation

By Joseph Parish

During an emergency situation there are certain rules which you should consider. These disasters can range from a natural disaster, martial law or all-out war. In this short discourse I would like to mention a few do's and don'ts to follow.

Don't Wear Camouflage clothing in public. In an emergency you will want to dress and act as unseen or neutral as you possibly can. This way you can avoid the menace of people mistaking you for a soldier or a member of the government for which they may very well be in fear of. The key here will be to eradicate as many preconceptions as you can. Don't wear your Marine Corps boots regardless of how good they may be or how well they fit your feet. Even small things like a Rolling Stones t-shirt could anger some groups of people to the extent of becoming violent. You want to avoid standing for anything what-so-ever. Be neutral in all your actions.

Avoid the typical survival or military gear. I know you have worked hard to accumulate all these items in the event of a survival situation but that Swedish Fallkniven knife or your \$200-dollar Maxpedition bag is certainly not the way to go. Many people are so keen on getting their emergency bags properly set up that they fail to think about what their costly gear is saying to those who are smart enough to see it for what it is.

The average person on the street won't know the difference however there are those who will readily recognize what you have. It is highly likely that your gear will be advertising you to those people such as Law Enforcement Officers, FEMA officials or even other survivalist who may not have your best interests at heart. You don't want to advertise yourself as a survivalist, prepper, soldier nor a better prepared citizen than the others. If you happen to forget and act as if you are aware of what is going on there is a remote chance that you will either lose your gear or even be arrested or killed in the confusion. In place of all of this select some well-known and recognized field gear. You may wish to use some of the good but unknown brand name items on the market today. Perhaps you have an old hunting knife that has been passed down from generation to generation or you have a non-LED Maglite that is still in top condition. If so, use them as they may be more useful than the more modern and fashionable, high-end gear that we all seek out.

A knife in your pocket is certainly preferred to one in the sheath. Small guns in your pocket are better than weapons in plain view. Looking dirty will likely portray you as less of a threat to someone as you are traveling. You might even wish to consider growing a beard and developing a persona of a homeless person. The small Sports Bags with draw strings attached would be acceptable to carry a few lightweight items. Just try not to look as if you have had a recent bath and just come out of a clean apartment. The less attractive your gear and you appear, the less trouble you will encounter on the street.

Don't display your gear. In a disaster environment it would not be a good time to display your gear to others. Desperate people will often do desperate things under such conditions. Those fancy leather sheaths may appear impressive to look at but they could cost you your life in a dangerous disaster zone. Usually a sheath would indicate that you have something of value worth protecting and you don't wish to lose it. Instead place your knife in your pocket or better yet around your neck and tucked under your shirt or jacket. As you travel through dangerous localities always keep one hand around your knife at all times. Even better would be to keep a knife somewhere on your body itself. If somebody wants to rob you, they will take your bags and likely have you empty your pockets. Discretion here is the name of the game.

If after all this discussion you still decide to use all that brand name equipment and gear don't make the situation worse than it already is. Eliminate any reference on your gear to a brand name by scraping it off or by painting over it. If your gear appears a bit beat up it will likely lose its appeal to a common thug on the street. Small items should be stuffed in your pocket and not attached to your belt. Use cheap civilian boots and avoid certain colors according to where you are traveling to.

In all reality there is likely no wrong or right way to dress during times of calamity. All being said we are who we are. Some people may desire to dress to impress, some might undoubtedly wish to wear all black. Some may dress up in their favorite sport clothing while others might want to wear baggy shorts. The point to be impressed upon here is never wear clothing which draws attention to you. Avoid Camouflaged colors, bright flashy shades, Military greens, and blacks. According to where you live different styles may be accepted or rejected. An example would be in Southern Florida where shorts and a t-shirt is accepted. Any sort of camouflage would be looked at as someone who could be dangerous.

The Department of Homeland Security has issued a security measure which informs people as to what they should look for in a suspicious person. They say to look for well-dressed people and to watch for slovenly dressed individuals as danger can come from anyone at any time no matter how they are dressed.

If you don't need to venture outside than don't do it. If you must go out avoid acting sneaky as it just makes you more noticeable. Wear a cheap plastic dollar tree watch and leave your \$600 Traser P6507 at home. Wear no fancy jewelry what so ever. As we have previously mentioned no military boots or expensive name brand sneakers with logos should be worn, Never carry a brief cases or a laptop bag, You may wish to carry a giveaway wallet with a little cash in it along with some fake pictures and IDs. Everything should have a fake address in it.

The main idea if you are in a big city is to look the part. If you happen to be traveling in an upscale neighborhood resembling some punk rocker you will become a big target. The same would apply if you are strolling through the hood dressed as a successful businessman. Remember, those that stand out like a sore thumb will always get hit first.