

## Surviving in a Post Cell Phone Free Era

By Joseph Parish

With an excess of over 153 million cell phones operating in our nation today, it is awkward to imagine life without them. From the moment we awaken in the morning, until the time we close our eyes in the evening, our complete daily schedule revolves around the use of these small, cellular marvels. At least one time per day any individual will either receive a call or a text message, or make an outgoing transmission. It is a challenging task these days to locate someone who does not have a cell phone. The problem I envision is can Americans survive without these modern inventions in a post calamity world?

Just from the standpoint of the sheer number of units in use, it would at first indicate that we would fail to survive without our cell phone, however, in all reality; I believe we would survive fairly well. Getting by without them is not an impossible task, and can be dealt with accordingly.

First off, a cellular phone is not necessary for our survival. They help ease our mind when we have one with us since only then we are assured that in an emergency we are capable of being contacted immediately. Without one we will still live our life as usual, eat the foods we enjoy on a routine basis, continue to work in our chosen occupation and all without the benefits of these little cellular delights which we carry around with us. Perhaps in a post cellular America, we would find that our life without them would be a slight bit less hectic.

The largest opposition which we are likely to encounter is our drastic lifestyle change. Habits are difficult to break and the use of a cell phone is in fact just that - a habit. Once we have successfully broken this developed habit, we would no longer find our lives centered upon the phone. As an example, my sister-in-law visited us for the Thanksgiving holiday. She was continually using her phone, either talking or texting or consulting Facebook for the posts made on her account. Like other's her life was wired to her cell phone. In a way I am glad I have a "dumb-phone" and not a modern, expensive smart phone. I have taken the liberty here of providing several tips that may help during a crisis when our cells are no longer of use to us.

The first thing you may wish to do is obtain and activate an answering machine on your home's landline installation. Few received messages are so important that a call back could not resolve the situation at a later time. Usually one's cell phone is used merely for communications purposes anyway, therefore this could become a viable option for you.

Let your close friends and immediate family members know that you will now be using landlines only. When departing your home, always inform your family members where you will be heading, when you expect to get there and a telephone number where you can be reached if an emergency condition should arise.

When planning to go anywhere make certain to take emergency numbers with you. Remember without a cell phone you will no longer have the convenience of storing telephone numbers as you did previously. Unless you remember each and every one of them you will likely miss being able to communicate properly when necessary. You will need to physically write each number in a small pocket style book for easy retrieval when needed.

There you have it, an effective method of dealing with the loss of your cell phone during a post catastrophic America. We should not be the slave of our machines, but rather the reverse. Those machines should be for our benefit.