

Community Preparedness Group International

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CPG PODs, DEFINITION AND USE

In the Middle Ages when some disaster loomed or some enemy approached, all the people who lived in the community would rush into the castle on the hill for safety, bringing whatever food, valuables, swords and tools they could carry. This early POD was bigger than their homes; it was better fortified with thick walls surrounded by a mote, had archers up on the walls and a door that wasn't easy to break down. If they prepared well, they survived. If they didn't they got raped and pillaged.

Our PODs are not quite as romantic as all that. But the idea is similar. We can create a 3rd dynamic that will help everyone survive better. And as a team, we can keep alive those we're counting on to create the New Civilization despite the goofs and burps of this "almost planet".

A POD is a "**Prearranged Operating Destination**" for dedicated Scientologists who are members of Community Preparedness Group (CPG). It is a rallying point in times of turmoil. It contains ways to communicate with other PODs in our local area and beyond. It is a place to share or barter for resources among members of our group, and perhaps the community. It is a safe point in its neighborhood in which OTs and upstat Scientologists can gather to increase their mutual survival potential. It has good local PR and can be defended, if needed.

It is the residence or place of business of one of our members, usually a house with some land that can be utilized for survival purposes. Each POD has from 6 to 16 members who contribute to one another's survival and operate as a team. As a residence is usually limited in size, so the members are typically limited to family, close friends, nearby OTs, upstat Scientologists and major contributors. If needed in acute disasters, it may be an emergency barracks for other group members and source of VMs for recovery efforts.

WHAT THE IDEAL POD SHOULD HAVE

The Ideal POD is what we are seeking to develop in every locale. However, it's rare that we find a location with everything in place, so don't worry if yours is not perfect. Choose the best places you can for PODs and move them toward ideal as quickly as you can. Add new PODs as your numbers increase.

POD members contribute on a gradient and build up their POD to include:

1. A **sustainable supply of water** (drinkable well, swimming pool, catchment system, creek, large containers like "totes"). In desert regions, like Southern California, water can become the main obstacle to sustained survival, because there is little rain in the summer and creeks dry up. We look for a well, a swimming pool or spa (with filtration) or large storage containers with enough capacity to get through the dry months for as many people as possible until rain catchment is again possible, in order to be sustainable. See our checklists for guidance.
2. Several months' supply of **food and vits**, with some degree of sustainability (garden/greenhouse). See our checklist for guidance.

3. A sustainable source of **electricity**, like battery backed-up solar. NOTE: If it is grid-tied, special circuitry is required to make solar systems usable when the grid goes down. 99% of solar installations won't work if the grid goes down because the default is to shut it down to prevent energy going from the solar panels into the grid where it could electrocute linemen working to fix power lines. Make sure yours will operate with the grid down.

Generators are only good for a few days until the gas supply runs out, and they are noisy and draw attention. Get more data on energy solutions from www.CPGint.org.

4. Other **reserve energy sources**, like gasoline, firewood, propane, rechargeable batteries, candles, oil lamps, etc. We are developing recommended systems, so check the website.
5. **Alternative cooking and food storage** methods, like fireplaces, barbecues, rocket stoves, solar ovens, log-fired ovens, smokers, spouting and canning supplies, etc. We've done lots of research here, as well. Check for checklists and data on the website.
6. Some **means of communicating** between PODs, Circle T Farms and CPG members. Have phone numbers and addresses for all your members, Circle T Farm and other PODs. An out-of-state relay point for messages may work for cell phone coverage, as service comes back first for out-of-state calling. Develop some good comm lines in other CPG Chapters around the country.

If cells aren't working, try texting, which is more stable.

HAM radio is most reliable in emergencies and CPG has recommendations on inexpensive solutions here. It requires an easy-to-acquire license, so someone in your POD **must get licensed**.

7. **Sufficient storage capacity** is needed to store the amount of resources needed for your family and for other POD members and their family members. Get your and their supplies on site to use in an emergency.
8. **Emergency medical supplies** starting with first aid and then more advanced. We will first aid/health care videos on the site and have a recommended POD first aid kit. We purchased bandages as a group to reduce the cost of acquiring and assembling things to best protect your group's health.
9. A supply of **arms and ammunition**, a defensible position and a security plan. Start with what you have, but we have developed standards and recommended patterns in this area, as well. So don't go buy stuff without coordinating. You'll need to be trained to use whatever you have safely and effectively.
10. Usable **tools** (hand, gasoline and battery).
11. Some **building materials**, tarps, plastic and such to build temporary shelters, water catchment devices, containment areas, outhouses and greenhouses.
12. Alternative **transportation**, like bicycles and possibly skate boards.
13. A **library** of survival and other reference data, such as "How-to books" in hard copy. This includes assist packs, TWTH to hand out to calm the area, etc.

14. Place sensitive electronic equipment, like old cell phones, laptops, HAM radios when not in use, etc. in **Faraday cages** in case of EMP, electromagnetic pulse. Instructions on how to assemble this protective Faraday cage from a steel garbage can, cardboard and plastic are on the CPG site.
15. POD **members trained** in **CERT, first aid, arms, security, HAM radio** and **construction**.

Each of these points should be gotten in and evaluated in terms of time; immediate, prolonged and sustainable.

WHEN TO GO TO YOUR POD

Not in minor emergencies. You can continue working and operating from your home, just as you always have. Of course, if you want to use these as opportunities to drill converging on your POD and operating as a group, that would be smart.

When You Would Be Expected to Go to Your POD

EVACUATIONS: In situations where the government calls for evacuating your area, you should immediately meet up at your POD, which is probably in a Non-Evac zone. If you must go, travel as a group. It is times like this that having a remote location will be especially valuable.

If you cannot get to your POD, be in comm with your POD-mates to let them know when to expect you or not to wait for you. Since we try to locate our PODs in Non-Evac zones, you can move from your home to your POD as the first (and hopefully final) stage of any evacuation.

You should **bring with you** food, vits, water, means of defense, tools, TWTH booklets, assist packs, first aid kits, survival library materials, sleeping bags, HAM radios and other things that would make your stay comfortable and sustainable. You may choose to *leave some of this at your POD location*, if there is adequate room to store it, so that you don't have to unload it from your house and move it into your POD during an emergency, when it might attract unwelcome attention to your all your goodies.

Key Policy

The basic policy is that everyone should:

Arrive at your POD by noon on the day following any major disaster.

If you're not there by then, call in because your POD will begin searching for you if they can.

In severe disasters, like nuclear events, civil unrest or situations where there is significant danger afoot, **Go to your POD immediately.**

- In disaster situations, particularly where the electrical grid and/or other city services may be down for a period of days or weeks.
- Following an earthquake, hurricane or other natural or manmade disaster.
- Nuclear events, civil unrest, martial law, etc.

POD PERSONNEL

There are key skills and abilities that each POD should have present in order to best survive. Ideally, you would have someone present who is a member of each of these Divisions and hatted in their tech:

- Div 4A (Shelter, Energy & Security)
- Div 4B (Water, Food & Fire)
- Div 4C (Medical, Clothing & Comfort)
- Div 4D (PODs & Bug-Out Locations). This person will be responsible for the POD being properly equipped and supplied.
- You need someone who is a licensed HAM radio operator
- Div 6, to do PR and help your community survive.
- Most if not all POD members will also be VMs.

WHAT A POD IS NOT

The POD is not a place to show up because you have failed to prepare for yourself and your family. A POD is for active CPG members and their immediate families.

If you're an inactive CPG member or a non-member who arrives at a POD, you may get whatever help that can be offered and then be sent on your way. Unless you have very exchangeable qualities that are useful in that particular emergency to that particular POD, you will not be added to the POD. PODs will have a survival checklists to provide to inactive and non-members.

If you are considered an asset and/or have vitally-needed supplies and equipment, you may be given some hats and added to the group. But your acceptance into the group will be provisional and based on 1) your valuable contributions 2) you not enterbulating the group and 3) absence of actions which put the group at risk, whether from unhattedness or other causes.

One's priorities change drastically in a disaster. You must have or acquire the means to survive for yourself and your family, then your immediate group, then larger groups, etc. The POD's first responsibility is to active CPG members who have kept the show on the road. When that is assured, we provide assistance more broadly.

So the moral of the story is "Be Prepared". And secondly "Be prepared to help others".

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