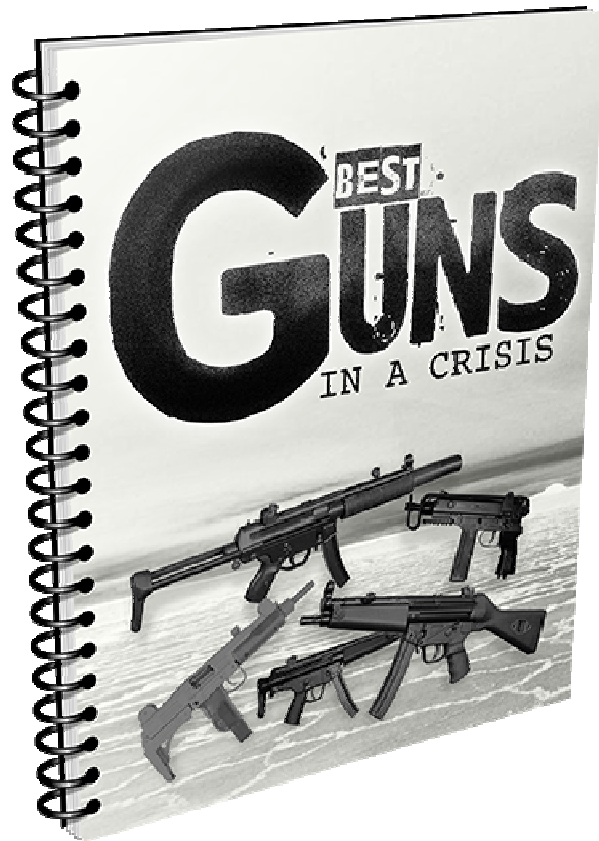


BEST GUNS TO HAVE IN A CRISIS



BY BENJAMIN WORTHEN

v.2.1

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INTRODUCTION: THE CASE FOR FIREARMS

The nightly news, your twitter feed and the constant posts from friends on facebook reinforce the need for preparation in a world that is increasingly more dangerous, unruly and unpredictable. It's not my job to sell you on the idea of Guns for major events. After the debacle in New Orleans post Hurricane Katrina, and the London Riots, the Los Angeles Riots after the Rodney King verdict and the recent Hurricane Sandy concerns, this type of thing sells itself.

But, what you'll be getting in this special report is something you cannot find anywhere else: a straightforward, real world and actually implementable plan for finding the best of the best guns for an event like that, without overspending or causing you more pain than necessary. You'll get a set of information and advice previously not compiled, giving you the exact steps and education on firearms that you've been waiting for.

The information in this special report will put you in a position to be safe, comfortable and protected in a crisis or post crisis using firearms and knowledge that few others will have.

My twenty plus years in law enforcement and military consulting, risk management and mitigation and as a gunsmith and firearms expert gives me an excellent insight to the industry and the implementation of firearms in stressful and dangerous scenarios. It's this information that will be used to give you the perfect primer on finding the right gear and getting the right mindset, preparations and products to ensure you survive when the going gets rough.

This is going to be the best down and dirty action plan on finding the right gun for real world events, that all of us have had the foresight to predict are coming.

The facts are these: in this day in age, after years of complacency, with all kinds of conflict escalating around the globe; a poor domestic economy and increasing numbers of major events, it's time to start preparing for your own protection.

There are so many so-called experts out there promoting some special report to get you on the hook. This report is different: you're going to get the real deal out of this; you'll be able to take this information and get started right away at changing the

paradigm in an unexpected event. The biggest fear is of the unknown; situations like Katrina, Sandy and scores of others provide unexpected consequences and unmitigated concerns. It's up to you to level the playing field.

When you have thugs moving door to door forcing their way into homes, taking advantage of your family and putting your life at risk, it's not the time to start preparing. The time is now, when you can make the biggest impact, where you can get yourself mentally, emotionally and physically prepared to take back control of the situation when it goes downhill.

If face to face with an armed aggressor given the choice between your life or theirs, your families safety or theirs, what will you do? Will you already have decided your breaking point, the catalysts and the outcomes? Will you know what to do, how to do it and what tools you will need to make it happen?

This world often does not give you a second chance to prepare. The time is now to prepare for that situation and the case has already been made for the realistic and constitutionally guaranteed right to protect your life and that of your family with a firearm. Take back your peace of mind and give yourself the upper hand for when that moment arrives, because like me, you probably already realize that it's just a matter of time before you're faced with a crisis situation.

PART 1: BASIC INFORMATION [INFORMATION ON THE TYPES OF GUNS, ADVANTAGES, DISADVANTAGES AND OTHER NECESSARY ACCESSORIES AND COMPONENTS]

Understanding the Case for guns is the easy part of the equation. Understanding the guns themselves is a whole other factor. When looking for the ideal firearms in a survival or emergency/crisis situation, it's important to grasp the holistic view of firearms. That holistic view starts by understanding the basic DNA of the firearm and what makes it what it is. Now, this isn't a history lesson or a Wikipedia page. This special report isn't catering only to newcomers, and it certainly isn't only for the most learned firearms guru.

This report on the best firearms for a survival situation is all about being the most practical and implementable guide to finding the perfect firearm answer to your unique problem. In examining these facets of the gun question, you'll uncover amazing pieces of information not normally found online, or in hard copy books. You'll find a real world, down and dirty, but previously unfound body of information written to put you into the upper end of firearms understanding and well on your way to protecting the things you love in an emergency or post crisis situation. After all, the gun is a tool, not a novelty. You need to know which tool to pick and how to use it to the maximum effectiveness so you can not only survive, but thrive.

Let's peel the skin on the onion of the gun game. The end goal of this section of the report, is to give you a knowledge of the basics of firearms, the differences between the firearm platforms and what you'll need to know for beginning your quest to finding the right firearm(s) for your situation.

Guns are seemingly complex; they tend to throw off the idea that they require a vast knowledge of their operation in order to venture into the market for one. But the fact is: Guns are in the DNA of Americans, survivalists, and survivors both in the United States and abroad.

It's important to note that the entire examination of firearms in this report will be skewed heavily to a survival situation. But not the traditional "survival" scenario; rather the ideas expressed in this book, and the knowledge you'll gain will help you to function in a crisis situation (just like those we touched on in the introduction), and more importantly, this is written to focus on the improved capabilities you will have with a high quality firearm, chosen for its unique qualities which are in line with your goals.

You will see a text that is built to help you survive in a post crisis scenario, whether you see that as the Apocalypse or the Zombie Apocalypse, or something more likely in the next decade or less. The goal, of course is to highlight the benefits of a gun to help you use it, not as a deterrent (as many of the uniformed population believes guns are), but as a tool for defensive use, sustainment and comfort.

Everything is relevant in the world of guns. That is: a gun is only as good as someone thinks it is, if you only listen to internet forums and "local experts". The FACT is: Guns of all types have useful characteristics, and you would be incredibly surprised to learn how useful a single shot .22LR can be if that's the gun most well suited to your unique survival situation. Bigger and more expensive is not always better. What's most important is education, training, preparation and comfort; in equal measures.

Let's get the basics out of the way:

There are four general categories of modern firearms for the survivalist, or urban commando, whichever you intend to relate most closely with.

There are the rimfire firearms, which are lower power, cheaper to operate, have a long life span and are generally easier to use for a wider range of users. They use a cartridge that is not reusable in any material way, is much cheaper than centerfire cartridges, and is usually quite plentiful, even immediately prior to a major crisis. Rimfire guns are low recoiling, well suited for use on small animals, and believe it or not, can kill a human if used properly.

These guns are versatile and useful but they are not the be-all-end-all for firearms, especially in a crisis. If you had an ancillary choice in firearms (that is: you can pick a second or a third or fourth gun), a rimfire rifle with a good stash of ammunition would be an excellent choice.

Let's talk about cartridges, and give those who are new to the gun scene a little bit of information that will keep them above the fray of those who would chastise them simply for not yet being fully educated on the subject. Cartridges are a case, powder and a projectile, with an ignition source: a fully integrated component made up of several smaller components which make it possible to fire a gun by simply loading it and pulling the trigger.

Bullets, by contrast are a simple component part of the cartridge; this is the part which moves out of the gun and has killing or destructive power. Powder is what allows the bullet (also known as a projectile) to travel out of the case, through the barrel and towards your target. The primer is the ignition sources which starts the powder burning and allows the entire cartridge to be a self-contained unit. All of these components, again, make up the cartridge. Now you know most of what the gun enthusiasts know when it comes to ammunition.

Recap: Ammunition = Cartridge=Round=Shell=Load (as in the term can basically be used interchangeably) Bullet = projectile; Powder = charge and Primer=primer. That's the most often used terms when it comes to ammunition. We'll cover the more in depth knowledge on ammunition in section 7 of this report including more specific terminology, picking the right ammunition and understanding the thinking behind specific loads. As a final note for now, a gun is only as useful as its ammunition. You'll need to remember that a gun is virtually useless as a tool without ammunition to shoot out of it, so pay attention to the sections which cover that.

The next class of firearms important to our discussion is shotguns. A shotgun is a firearm (usually a "long gun" which is essentially a synonym for a rifle) which uses a shell with a decidedly larger size than most normal firearms, and has the capacity to shoot many projectiles out of the shell (also can be called a cartridge) in a single shot. The shotgun has perhaps the largest potential for destruction of any shoulder fired platform within reach of the average consumer, especially in close range (0-35 yards).

As a firearm, a shotgun tends to be incredibly versatile, and have an abundance of uses in a crisis or post crisis scenario. The cartridges aren't cheap per se (certainly not as cheap as the cheapest .22LR cartridges), but they offer an excellent relative value compared to the other platforms we'll cover. As a gun for our purposes, it's hard to match a shotgun and we'll go into that in section 5 and at other points in the text.

A pistol, is a smaller firearm, meant for use in a single hand, or for potentially being carried in a concealed fashion. The pistol lends itself well to short distances, those scenarios where you might be within reach of a target or aggressor, or where you need to cut back on weight or bulk.

A handgun (the term pistol generally refers to a semi-automatic handgun, rather than a revolver) is a useful tool, and is generally the personal defensive weapon of choice for a majority of Americans. A Revolver is an easy to use, easy to understand, but limited capacity (meaning it holds less rounds of ammunition generally) handgun which uses mechanics for operation.

A semi-auto(matic) handgun uses both mechanical processes and sometimes the processes of the actual firing and cartridge to function. That is to say, a semi-automatic generally uses the recoil of the cartridge and firing process to prepare the gun for the next shot. A revolver uses mechanical processes and input from the shooter to prepare for the next shot. Pistols can be had in small caliber and large caliber chamberings (a caliber is the size measurement for a cartridge; chambering is the determinant for which cartridge to use in a specific gun).

A rifle (aside from rimfire versions) is a long-gun which uses a centerfire cartridge and has a large amount of power, range and capability. Generally speaking, rifles allow a shooter to engage a target at much farther ranges than other platforms, and can help to keep distance between you and your enemy, or help to put food on the table if being used for hunting.

A rifle is the choice of any army as a primary firearm, because the old adage is true: a handgun is used to get you back to your rifle. That is to say: a rifle will allow you to put more distance and tactical advantage between you and your target. The further away that you can be, while still maintaining your lethality, theoretically, the safer and more in control you are. A rifle is used for myriad reasons, from close quarter battle, to multiple target interdictions, to long range covert shooting, to medium or long range hunting.

These four platforms form the basis for all modern firearms in a situation where you might rely on a firearm for survival, while there are other platforms, these are the most available, the most versatile and the easiest to grasp. In the next three sections, we will discuss the specifics about picking the best handguns, rifles and shotguns, and

will touch on rimfires as it makes sense to do so. Pay particular attention to the specific scenarios where each of these guns might make sense, especially if you are forced to choose a single firearm, or are unable to field several purpose driven firearms. I'll add the reminder that a firearm, as I said before, is only as useful as the ammunition you have for it, but I will also add, that the firearm is also only as useful as your ability to handle it, and your training with it.

PART 2: PICKING A HANDGUN

Finding the right handgun is more than just getting a good handgun, it's about determining that a handgun is what you need. While a vast number of Americans use a handgun as a personal defense weapon, it might not be the perfect gun for all of them. Furthermore, a handgun might not suit you well during a crisis or in the wake of one. Handguns are often difficult to keep on target, they have limited range, and the total ballistic benefit can be lost in a competition with a long-gun.

Handguns are excellent for close quarters, but they leave a lot to be desired for early target removal. Where a handgun would be best suited, is for those who require a lot of travel, have a large amount of resources or have minimal space. Handguns would not traditionally be conducive to a situation where you might need to hunt for food. Handguns would be excellent choices for bugging in, where your home is sufficiently fortified, and where there is a vehicle involved in your day to day situation.

Additionally, it should be noted, that while you CAN hunt and shoot with a handgun at longer ranges, the ballistic efficiency isn't optimized. I could imagine a situation, where the user was scavenging and returning to a set fortified location to be one which lends itself well to a handgun as a primary weapon. Most other situations would be likely better served with a long-gun most of the time.

Now, this is not a hard and fast rule. Simply put, in conjunction with a long-gun, a handgun can be an invaluable piece of gear to have. As a rule of thumb, make the choice of a well-built gun, with a common caliber and one which has a reputation for excellent durability, ease of use and high functionality.

An obvious choice would be the tried and true Revolver, which, when outfitted correctly can be accurate, shoot several rounds (for instance .357 and .38 Special out of the same cylinder), and are built for simplicity, durability and ease of use. The heavy pull of the trigger essentially serves as an active safety device, and yet, the revolver remains ready to fire at a split-second's notice.

Revolvers are limited by their generally heavier weight, small capacity and potential timing concerns after long term use. While most well-made revolvers won't ever manifest a timing problem (an occurrence where the cylinder doesn't lock up

exactly where it should, causing potential problems with safety and accuracy), the work and tools required to fix the problem can be a bit more than the average person will be trained for. In contrast, a semi-automatic could be made to accept drop in replacement parts, or may come from factory, working well with drop in replacement parts, and is therefore potentially better suited to a long-term scenario.

If I had to pick a single revolver I would pick a short or medium barreled .357 like a Smith & Wesson 686 Plus, or a Ruger SP101 or Ruger Redhawk. These revolvers are quite similar in design, very intuitive, built to last, and hold a good amount of firepower. Both enjoy excellent reputations for accuracy, even in the smaller barrel lengths of 2", 2.5" or 4" and aren't overly heavy in such a configuration. Both come from companies that are likely to be around after a major event, and both should be easily serviceable in the field with minimal tools.

As for a semi-auto handgun, I could name 5 off the bat that have simple designs, excellent reputations and are chambered in a common round that would all suit your purposes well, but I think I will go with the one I have the most rounds through. I would likely pick a Glock 17 or a Glock 19 in 9mm Luger. Not because the gun is the most impressive; certainly not because I'm picking favorites, or copying the highest ranking law enforcement officer.

The gun is simple, safe, lightweight, and I have personally shot 35k rounds through one, with only a single problem (a broken extractor-which I'm almost positive is a result of steel ammunition), and the company backs their firearms well. The cartridge it's chambered for is incredibly common, yet still has good power and velocity, and is among the cheapest defensive rounds.

Sig Sauer (Model P226, P229, SP2022), Springfield (model XD or equivalent), Smith & Wesson (Model M&P), HK (Model USP or P30 or P2000) as well as a host of others are comparable pistols and should serve as a fine handgun. A final note: you'll want to have certain spare parts available for replacement (namely a full spring set, an extractor and a firing pin), and the tools to service the firearm in the field and perform basic maintenance.

If I had to pick a single firearm for a crisis situation however, it wouldn't be a slick revolver or a polymer semi-automatic pistol, it'd be a design reaching back over 100 years to 1911. In fact, it's a Model 1911, full sized single stack .45ACP handgun. There

are a lot of reasons this pistol is the clear winner for me, but the Absolute most important part is the availability to replacement parts, tools for working on it, and the ability to use drop in parts in the firearm (this is only the case with standard models; high end custom 1911's might not be well suited for long-term off the grid urban combat, depending on how well you know your pistol).

The cost can range from \$400 or so up to about 10 times that. The parts are readily available (even the Glock and Sig, and other manufacturer's parts often times have to be ordered through an authorized armorer), and are often very cheap, as long as you stick to standard parts. The operation is simple, safe, and it requires very little to operate effectively. The .45 round is quite common, and it packs quite a punch. It's not cheap to shoot, but it isn't over the top either.

In order of preference:

1. 1911 .45 Government Model
2. Glock 17 9mm
3. Smith & Wesson 686 Plus
4. Ruger SP101 or Redhawk

There are plenty of other choices; the best bet is to see what feels good in your hand, and perhaps to rent one to try before you buy. The one that you feel comfortable will always be the better gun, regardless of my personal experience or recommendation. It's important to buy some extra high end or original manufacture magazines for your semi-auto pistols and you should be stocking at least 500 rounds of ammunition with any pistol (more on ammunition in SECTION 7).

It's important that you have a gun you're comfortable with, preferably the largest gun that makes sense, and you should have the operation dialed in. You should spend at least a day or two at the range with your handgun, and at least 350 rounds through the gun. You should determine the little things with the pistol, like how long it takes to heat up to an uncomfortable temperature during firing and which ammunition it likes.

I recommend using at least 100 rounds of your defensive ammunition (preferably aggressive hollowpoint loads) in your firearm to ensure functionality and that you do what you can with your unloaded firearm to get used to the trigger, sight control and holster draw techniques.

The more familiar you are with your handgun, the better you'll be able to perform when the time comes. Most importantly, regardless of which type or model of firearm you choose, you MUST understand the psychology of firing a gun at a living breathing target. It is the times when you must fire the gun that will be the most difficult. You'll need to be prepared both physically and mentally, but also emotionally to cope with the prospect of taking a human life or that of an animal to ensure your existence.

This may seem too blunt, but the truth is that the aftermath of discharging a weapon at an active target is an intense decision with potential consequences. You must be in the mindset to deal with such a decision. It is not an overnight transition, you must prepare yourself, educate yourself and train to the point that you understand muscle memory and can react based on a set of predetermined circumstances and know that you have been justified in making such a move. The psychology of firearms for defensive use is a big variable in the equation.

PART 3: PICKING A RIFLE

A rifle is perhaps a soldier's best friend. The modern rifle is inseparable from the hardened operator and should rightly be given a bit of reverence in the grand scheme of things. From the basic and simple bolt action with iron sights, to a cutting edge high capacity modern battle rifle with the latest in optics, the long gun, and specifically the centerfire rifle is without question, an important piece to the firearms puzzle, especially in the situation this book encompasses.

A rifle will allow you to have long range capabilities with the highest ballistic efficiency and the best stopping power at intermediate and long ranges. It is versatile in that it allows you to keep space between you and your enemy or your hunting target, yet is equally adept in the close quarter situation, if properly configured. A rifle will be able to shoot animals at a safe distance and with proper efficiency.

Ideally, you will have a rifle capable of killing various animals and stopping a human target; one which uses a large enough and efficient enough cartridge that you can wring the largest amount of usability out of it. It's all too common that a user chooses an esoteric or non-mainstream cartridge for their rifle with a positive outlook on the coming situation. This is a mistake. If I impart a single piece of wisdom to you in this section of the text, let it be this: go mainstream with your rifle, and prepare by getting the necessary equipment and components to reload your cartridges (more on that in SECTION 10).

By choosing a mainstream rifle, you'll be making your job easier in a really stressful situation, you'll avoid costly missteps and you will allow yourself to continue to shoot long after others are running out, with just a little attention to detail.

You want to pick a rifle that everyone picks. Those candidates will include only a few core rifles, including modern military style rifles and common hunting rifles. This choice will allow you to scavenge on parts, tools, ammunition and even new rifles for your own ammunition stores if it comes down to it.

A rifle is best suited to a situation where you anticipate needing to hunt animals for food. Additionally, it is the firearm of choice when you anticipate not having a heavy

fortress to protect you, or where you have a large area of space to stop threats at a distance before they reach your position.

A Rifle is a good companion where you do not anticipate having to shoot from a vehicle (if solo) and it will be best suited to those who need precision shooting capabilities, where a timed and composed shot can be taken. A modern battle rifle is best suited to a situation where you might need to fend off humans, whereas, there are several advantages to using a simple and efficient bolt action rifle for situations where acquiring food is among your top priorities.

A bolt action rifle with a long barrel will not be as good a choice for those who are in urban settings, as the size and functionality can be limiting factors in such a scenario. It's best to gauge your need for a rifle on how much space you have between you and your targets. If you are limited on space, but must also be able to stop a target at up to 200 yards or so, a semi-automatic military style rifle is a perfect choice. If you are on a large sprawling ranch with thousands of acres and natural wildlife, a bolt action or lever action will be well-suited.

What you are planning on shooting, and your initial resources are important in choosing a caliber or a cartridge base. If you have large game to shoot and large resources, you might pick a .45-70 lever action rifle over a small caliber battle rifle. By contrast, those who are only worried about looting and aggressive neighbors, will want a high capacity small or medium caliber semi-auto rifle, with appropriate accessories and additional magazines. Everything can be determined by your surroundings and the expected threats/needs.

I would pick the following 6 guns, with each one being my first choice for its own specific situation and ALL of them being sufficient for any of the situations, though perhaps not ideally suited to ALL situations.

1. AK47 style rifle in 7.62x39 caliber
2. Semi Auto .308 (AR-10; M1A; FN FAL or other battle style rifle)
3. AR-15 style rifle in .223/5.56 caliber
4. Ruger Gunsite Scout Rifle in .308 caliber
5. Marlin 1895 Lever Action rifle in .45-70 caliber
6. Remington 700 Bolt Action Rifle with a 24" or larger barrel in .308

These six rifles are perhaps oddly configured for many “experts” but they have a rational and interesting set of reasons behind the recommendation. In 6 different scenarios or locations, or personal situations, each of these guns makes the most sense for a single scenario. Each of them is capable of functioning as a primary rifle in just about every scenario. Each uses a very common cartridge and there are components available for each and accessories available for each on a wide scale.

Each of the above 6 rifles are accurate enough, lightweight enough and well-built enough to last in the long term with minimal spare parts, minimal tooling and minimal maintenance.

A brief summary of each of these 6 rifles is as follows:

AK47:

The tried and true battle rifle is built to last, can take a beating, and while not being the most accurate battle rifle ever designed, it’s got good enough accuracy that you won’t be nervous in normal settings.

The AK47 ammunition is still currently, relatively inexpensive compared to other medium range cartridges, and is still very available. The reliability is top tier, and the accessory mix is extensive. The caliber is enough to kill medium game given the right circumstances, and easily stop a human target in a single round in most conditions.

Semi-Auto .308:

While there are a ton of different rifles one could choose from, I would recommend choosing one with a 16, 18 or 20” barrel (yes a 16” barrel can easily put you out past 300 yards with this type of rifle), and a large capacity magazine (usually 20 rounds for this type of firearm), as well as back up iron sights.

I recommend an optic on all rifles, even if not used 100% of the time. Among my personal top choices are the AR Style 308 (think AR-10); FN SCAR or FN FAL; Sig 716; Springfield M1A or HK MR762 or G3. There are others, but these are the rifles in the category that continue to outperform.

AR Style Rifle:

America’s favorite rifle is of course the weapon of choice since the 1960’s for the U.S. Military, but while it does have the potential to stop threats, as well as allowing for

lighter weight and/or more ammunition capacity (due to lighter weight), it isn't particularly well suited to long range hunting of large game. It works perfectly fine as a home defense weapon, though, I would argue it isn't optimally placed in that role either. It simply lacks the stopping power past 200 yards for anything the size of a man or greater (like, say a large deer, or an elk, etc.).

It's not my first choice, but the ability to change to a different upper receiver and add a ton of other accessories to bring it up to par. The 300 blackout round and the 6.8 SPC round both make good arguments as a medium caliber hunting cartridge depending on range to the target.

The AR platform can also readily be converted to a short barrel system, though it should be noted that such a modification is illegal without proper licensure and a federally regulated tax stamp exemption, handled through the BATFE. There are hundreds of makers which make "mil-spec" parts and components for the AR platform, any of these should allow you infinite possibilities for customization and expansion on the base rifle. While it isn't my first choice, it is among my top choices and should function well for many people in need of a competent rifle during a crisis situation.

RugerGunsite Scout rifle:

A short barrel, tactically inclined, medium capacity bolt action rifle with excellent accuracy just about sums up the reasons why this rifle places so high on this list. It offers CQB (Close Quarter Battle) capabilities, with long range hunting and target interdiction capabilities.

It offers excellent accuracy out to about 400 yards or so (though it can be shot further) and has a very simple and durable design. For bolt actions, it's just slightly more than the base models, but offers a ton of tactical upgrades. The simplicity of the bolt action is well suited to new shooters, but could be a hinderance in a situation where you need to fend off multiple targets/aggressors in short space. It's not ideal for CQB, but it's capable of it, especially for those with very good fortifications.

Marlin 1895 Lever Action Rifle:

The largest caliber in the list, and arguably the most versatile (to a very experienced reloader), the Marlin makes sense where there are wide open spaces, or for those who will be bugging out to places with dangerous or large game animals, and

who must rely on wild game for food. The cartridge can be handloaded down to handle smaller animals like small deer (even under 100 lbs.) all the way up to large bears. The quick cycling lever action make it serviceable in a defensive scenario and the 4-shot tubular magazine is easy to reload on the fly, and while seemingly low-capacity, offers an impressive amount of firepower.

The cartridge is robust, easy to reload many times, and the round, while not the most popular, is one which might be left on store shelves during a time of crisis, but is popular enough to be included in big box stores. A note: the .45-70 is too big of a cartridge to be considered, and too far out of the mainstream to make it a first choice, unless the shooter has significant reloading equipment, components and is interested in becoming a reloader/handloader.

I do suggest that reloading become a big part of your preparations (regardless of the guns you choose) for such a crisis situation, and that you invest adequate time and money into supplies and techniques for reloading.

Remington 700 Bolt Action Rifle:

The Remington Bolt action, or a higher end equivalent is last on my list, but above thousands of other rifles below it. The simple design, high factory accuracy and the ability to find parts, tools and maintenance equipment make it a solid choice.

The long barrel length is best for long range shooting and hunting, and not particularly well suited for Close Quarters conflict. I would not endorse it wholeheartedly as a single primary firearm, but it is capable, depending on your specific situation. I would recommend a mainstream chambering like .308.

A few notes about Rimfire guns:

The rimfire rifle makes a lot of sense in a survival situation, but it's important that you know where it fits in, and that it is not your primary rifle, or even your primary weapon. A rimfire rifle (specifically a .22LR-and that caliber is the only rimfire caliber I will cover here) can be a smart secondary (or lower) firearm, and certainly offers benefits that most other guns cannot.

I will state it plainly: I do not recommend a .22LR handgun in such a situation, as I see virtually no use for such a gun, that another gun could not easily outperform. That said, there are cases where, if you only have a .22LR handgun, it would come in handy.

For the purposes of this text, I would only recommend a rifle in .22LR (though I am ordinarily a big fan of .22 Magnum), and then, I would recommend only a small handful of rifles.

These rifles would make sense for low-profile or stealthy hunting of very small game (think: squirrels and rabbit), where you wouldn't want to attract too much attention. I would further comment that just because .22LR ammunition is usually plentiful and cheap, does not mean it is substantial enough for defensive usage, and is not indicative of the supply/availability of the ammunition prior to a major event (where that event has some foreshadowing). If you have a substantial amount of .22LR and a good quality rifle (like the ones listed below) you would be ahead of the curve in a long-term situation.

Be forewarned though: while a single shot of a well-placed .22 can easily kill someone, there is a substantial amount of research to indicate that the stopping power of such a round is woefully insufficient for threat mitigation. You would be well advised to carry a larger caliber firearm for defensive purposes.

As for rifle recommendations there are two that stick out as near perfect rifles for such conditions:

1. The Ruger 10/22 or 10/22 takedown
2. The Savage Mark II FVSR Bolt action

I will make a note however, that there are thousands of excellent .22LR rifles in existence, and an honorable mention goes to the Marlin Model 60 as well. Just about any .22LR rifle would suffice as a secondary firearm in an off the grid, crisis management, or bug out situation.

Ruger 10/22 and 10/22 Takedown:

The most popular .22 Rifle has that title because of its reliability, accuracy, ease of use and devilish good looks. The gun just doesn't stop working; it's a semi auto and it is about as accurate as any mainstream .22LR. The open sights are good, it allows for an optic and it's got a ton of cheap parts available for servicing. If you want a semi-auto .22LR, this is the one to get, and you might consider the "Takedown" model, which separates into 2 pieces and carries easily in a backpack.

Savage Mark II FVSR:

The new Savage bolt action, with a small price tag, excellent accuracy and some really great features. It has a threaded muzzle; a rail for optics and an enhanced trigger. Yes, it's a bolt action, but by that very virtue, it is seemingly a prude on ammo usage. I've got about 5k rounds through this gun and had a single malfunction, which can be attributed to bad ammunition: it's that good.

If you need a small caliber rifle, then these will suit you well, and you can ensure a bit of longevity with some smart ammunition buys on the cheap. A .22LR is in my crisis plan, and it factors heavily for small game hunting and long term sustainability.

As with any firearm, especially those serving as primary firearms, you should be using them extensively, and learning the ins and outs of their operation, as well as determining your proficiency with said rifle.

PART 4: PICKING A SHOTGUN

The shotgun is particularly well suited to the events described in this report; it's got firepower, ease of use and cheap ongoing cost basis. Ammunition is readily available, cheap and easy to reload; often it's the only ammunition that can be found during times of high demand (partially due to the fact that it is mostly made with plastic cases, partially because so many rounds are produced). Specifically, it's easy to understand, very forgiving with accuracy, and made to last. The idea of the shotgun is used in combat in every corner of the world and it offers one of the best mixes of CQB and intermediate range usage of any firearm.

The shotgun can be had in semi-auto, break open (limited capacity) or pump action. There are a few lever action shotguns available, but they aren't fit for this discussion due to the reliability and part replacement issues. If I had a first choice it would be a 3" magnum shotgun, with a pump action, mostly because the gun would offer the ultimate in options. I would further mention that capacity is crucial here: more than 5 rounds will be the threshold at which the shotgun becomes a truly excellent weapon. Any less than that and the reloading process can begin to degrade the performance of a shotgun.

Many shotguns allow up to 10 rounds to be put into a tube, with an average of 7-8 with an extended magazine tube. Seven or Eight shots out of a shotgun is an impressive amount of firepower. Considering how a shotgun shell works, that can put more lead on target faster than even the best AR-15's with standard capacity magazines. A shotgun shell is a composite tube (the "shell" or "case" or "hull"), with a brass or steel base, which holds a primer. The shell body holds a cup (the shot cup), a wad (a spacer which is sometimes attached to the shot cup and directs the gas created by the burning powder behind it to push the shot cup out), and a powder charge and is crimped at the end to allow the shot to be contained.

Inside of the shot cup, there are variances as to how much lead (or other material) is held, depending on the shot type and material weight. Magnum shells allow more shot and heavier weights, and therefore have higher potential for destruction. The additional weight and powder charges are reflected in the additional recoil. A typical 2 ¾" shell will hold about 9 pellets (.33" each) of double ought buckshot in a shell, which is

about 1 ounce of lead (some loads are less than one ounce of shot); for a small shot size like a #9 shot, 1 ounce cups will hold about 585 pellets (.080" each).

A Double ought buckshot load might be suitable for a medium range defensive situation, while a #9 shot would be more suitable for a short range small bird hunt. Magnum loads increase lead delivered on target and the total capacity of the Wad/Cup.

A shotgun is more intimidating for the target than it is for the shooter, despite a nasty reputation for having brutal recoil and muzzle flip. There is no disputing that the recoil exists, but it's far more manageable than one might think; with a bit of range time and a willingness to learn the platform, you can get past this worry of recoil. By the way, there are several mainstream loads available with low recoil powders and they do reduce recoil significantly.

Now a bit about gauges: I advocate for 12 gauge shotguns, mostly because I think with the combination of accessories and low recoil loads, this offers the best of all worlds for shooters of all types and sizes. The lowest size I would go with is a 20 gauge, and then, I would be hesitant to do so.

The 20 gauge is just too small compared to the 12 gauge to make it a beneficial move. The load availability is immense for 12 gauges, and the recoil increase is virtually negligible over smaller shotgun loads. (Though, in times of ammunition shortages, I almost never see Wal-Mart's and other big retailers out of stock on 20 Gauge, so as a last ditch gun, a 20GA would work well)

A shotgun can also accurately fire a high grain weight (grain weight is a measurement; there are 437.5g in 1 ounce), sometimes over 650 grains in the form of a slug out of a smooth bore barrel. Even more accurate is a slug fired out of a rifled slug specific barrel, which often times can get 3" groups at 100 yards (or less!).

Barrel changes, add-ons and modifications are relatively easy to perform on a shotgun.

Semi-auto shotguns, while not being as inherently capable of full reliability as a pump shotgun (pump shotguns give a manual override option, via the operator), can be dialed in to work perfectly with just about any normal load. Semi-automatics are slightly more complicated and slightly less reliable and that's why they don't enjoy my top

endorsement for such events, but there are plenty of excellent semi-auto shotguns worth considering for the scenario.

I own a Benelli M1 (semi-auto) and a Benelli M3 (pump & semi-auto) as well as a Remington Versamax shotgun. All of these in semi-auto function are as good as my go-to shotgun, the Remington 870 pump shotgun.

It's important to note though, the pump shotgun can cycle ANY round without having to change gas ports, dial it in or change parts. The Remington 870 is also simpler, easy to use and requires a level of involvement and focus which is important during an active shooting situation. I also trust the many modifications to it, the parts' integrity and the reliability, implicitly.

AS for choosing a shotgun, my list is as follows:

1. Remington 870 or Mossberg 500 (with a slight edge to the Remington) in 12 gauge
2. Benelli M1 or M3
3. Remington Versamax

I could name a hundred other shotguns that work, but for the context of this report, these are the real stars of the show. I would not say you need to be worried if you use a semi-auto shotgun, just that I prefer the versatility of a pump action, and with my specific planning and plans, I am able to determine threats very early on, allowing me adequate time to use a pump shotgun, rather than a faster semi-auto.

Additionally, I have training that gives me a good amount of confidence in a firefight with a shotgun; I recommend you do the same. Training with your firearms is incredibly important, right up there with mindset and ammunition. It's a foundation which uses multiple pillars, each should be adequately attended to, to ensure success.

The Remington 870 is bulletproof, built to last, cheap and easy to find. It cycles any type of ammunition, and it's not subject to overbearing legislation.

The Mossberg 500, is basically a slightly less tough version of the Remington 870, but essentially inherits all of its good qualities. It can be had for even less money than a Remington 870; about \$75 less or so.

The Benelli family of Shotguns enjoys fast reloading, smooth operation and lower felt recoil, a lighter overall gun and a near perfect reputation; it's the Cadillac of shotguns (except that it's made in Italy for all intents and purposes). For these admirable attributes, you'll need to work to find the best ammunition and you'll pay a premium price, twice as much money as the Remington 870 and Mossberg 500.

The Remington Versamax Shotgun is Remington's "tactical" answer to the Benelli M4, and is genuinely a great gun. I don't have enough rounds through it to pick it as a top choice, but it's certainly growing on me. 9 shots, 20" barrel, high end modifications and a great look, I'm not sure it's worth the \$1200 it costs in a crisis situation, but it's a great gun.

A shotgun is a perfect single gun answer if you don't need an ultra-long range shooter.

PART 5: IF YOU ONLY HAVE ONE GUN

If you have the luxury of owning a variety of firearms in a crisis or post crisis situation, I highly advise that you consider doing so. If I had my choice and was able to maintain my supply levels and had adequate protection for the guns and ammunition and other ancillary items involved, I think I would have 5 guns: a Shotgun, a larger capacity semi-auto Rifle, a Handgun, a Rimfire Rifle and a bolt action rifle with a good quality optic.

The problem with such a bevy of firearms is not singular. You'll run into higher costs, more components to take care of and more ammunition needed. You'll have transportation concerns if you have to become or remain mobile for long periods of time. Additionally, it's not easy to watch over and ensure the safety of several firearms.

You'll notice though, that I listed a shotgun as my first choice; that was not by accident. If I had a single gun, it'd be a shotgun.

Many would disagree with me. They might even call me crazy. Just about everyone and their brother would say: why wouldn't you want the long range power of a military style rifle, with larger capacity, longer range and better single projectile ballistics at distances? To them, I say: practicality and usability in the largest amount of scenarios is why.

I have 20+ years of experience behind my choice, and I think I can make a compelling argument for the use of a shotgun as your single gun. From the lower total cost of ownership and implementation, to the impressive firepower to the nearly unhindered versatility of the modern shotgun, to the build quality, part longevity and availability of cheaper ammunition, the shotgun is king of this jungle. Let's get into this a bit deeper.

The shotgun is cheap to buy, cheap to maintain, cheap to shoot, and just about every hunter, sportsman and target shooter has had one or currently owns one, not to mention ammunition to shoot out of it.

The shotgun can be used from 2 feet away to over 150 yards, and can even easily kill a deer sized animal at 150+ yards with the appropriate conditions and setup.

The shotgun is intuitive, has a built in intimidation factor, allows a large amount of mass/weight to be delivered on target, and is incredibly forgiving when it comes to accuracy.

The shotgun is built like a brick \$h!THOUSE! These guns are made for simplicity and durability and often can fire tens of thousands of rounds, whereas most rifles are limited to a few thousand, and certainly less than 10k rounds, and pistols rarely get above 15-20k rounds in lifespan.

Shotguns are generally serviceable with household items and tools and often do not require the same intensive maintenance as rifles and pistols (though, that is not an excuse to avoid maintaining your firearm properly).

Shotguns are able to be custom tailored in their loads to allow close quarter combat effectiveness, while also not causing concern for neighbors, and can be used for hunting of all types of animals and birds, as well as for long range target interdiction.

Shotguns can fire slugs (some are more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an ounce of lead per projectile) without a change in barrel, and if a barrel change is needed, the benefit is increased accuracy, easy change (sometimes without tools) and better ballistics.

Shotguns are incredibly reliable in their nature, whether they are semi-automatic or pump action (or other).

My pick for a single gun during a crisis or in the aftermath of a crisis, where I need a versatile gun, to which I could trust my life, my welfare and my future, is a pump action shotgun, made of steel, with composite stocks. Specifically, I would pick (and do own) a Remington 870 Pump Action Magnum Steel Shotgun with an 18" barrel and a 26 inch rifle barrel with appropriate accoutrements.

My gun can handle 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " shells (standard) and magnum 3" shells for specific reasons. With a smooth bore, and in a defensive scenario I use double ought buck shot (00 BUCK) which gives me about 9, .33 diameter pellets (or roughly the equivalent of 6-7 9mm projectiles on the same target) out of each shot. I use a rifled barrel for long range concerns like hunting, or to make an early decision against an aggressive target.

With a rifled barrel, the proper ammunition and the right optic, my gun is able to hit a 9" target easily at 175yards. That accuracy is enough to stop just about any target up to 450 lbs. or so. I wouldn't consider it a one shot kill on a bear at that distance, but it

would certainly allow me multiple follow up shots, or time to retreat if I could not dispatch a larger target at that range. My setup includes a flashlight integral to the forend and all composite stocks, as well as a mount for a quick release optic able to be dialed in to about 150 yards without additional calculations.

I have extra parts for the most vulnerable pieces, and I have an extensive collection of ammunition in a huge variety of loads.

Here are a bunch of reasons why (to be combined with those touched on immediately above) I picked this setup as my single firearm for an emergency and the aftermath:

It's important to note that much of the prowess of the shotgun as a versatile gun is the load variance. The field hunting loads could be used for home defense, but are best suited to the field and winged animals; similarly, buckshot is best for defensive purposes and slugs are best for longer range accuracy and larger targets.

- The available parts are cheap, easy to replace and strong. The Remington 870 Pump Shotgun is a particularly tough shotgun, able to be knocked about a bit, and still function reliably and accurately.
- The composite stocks are weather resistant, tough and have more “grip” than those smooth lacquered wooden stocks you usually find on a shotgun.
- The shotgun can be used for hunting and defensive and offensive maneuvers with little more than an ammunition change to separate the three scenarios.
- Everyone in my family knows how to use it, and despite it having heavy recoil, everyone can handle it.
- It has a heavy intimidation factor, a relatively small total “footprint” and dead simple operation.
- If SHTF, I would be able to find some loads somewhere, or barter with several of my neighbors for ammunition, if I wasn't comfortable with my already sizeable, and relatively low cost basis, stash of ammunition.
- Reloading components are cheap, easy to find and easy to assemble on single stage presses.
- I have extensive training with a shotgun, in tactical situations and with the accessories I use on it.
- Birds and small game tend to be longer lasting during mass hunting scenarios and there is the ability to take larger game.

- It puts more lead on target than just about anything else, certainly more than anything in its price range.
- I get the added stability of the stock, but I also have decent maneuverability.
- I can breach doors, stop vehicle engines (with a properly placed slug) and use less shots to do so, than most other firearms.

For \$800 I can get the base gun, the accessories, extra parts, several hundred rounds of ammunition, including a mid-range optic. That is about half of what an AR-15 would cost to equip comparatively.

It's about the base price of a good pistol and a couple boxes of ammunition. \$800 is a bargain for what you get, this shotgun is available during times of high volume gun sales, and has an incredible amount of stopping power. I reiterate: regardless of the base cost of my single gun setup, I remain convinced that my skills (the same you could acquire) and with the available options and ammunition, a pump action shotgun is the single gun made to get you through the worst, while providing the best all-around tactical power.

If you only have one gun: it should be a Remington 870 Pump Action Shotgun with a great variety of ammunition and customized for your needs.

PART 6: LEARNING ABOUT AMMUNITION AND PICKING THE RIGHT LOADS

Variety of ammunition can be very important in the position you will be in during or after a major event. But variety is not the only factor. You need to understand how projectiles work and why certain loads are more useful than others. I will also note, that many “experts” will vary wildly on this particular topic.

Everyone has their own reasons for picking certain ammunition for effectiveness and other reasons. I’ll give just one example which proves the point, that both sides can sometimes be right, and it will take your own testing to confirm for you which is best.

I might be in a tract home built with common building materials, with three children in different areas of the house and be focused on bugging in (staying until the conflict is over, even if times get tough). In such a situation, I might not want to use the most effective ammunition in my home defense shotgun, because something like a slug or double ought buck shot might shred my home’s walls if I miss an intruder or overpenetrate the target.

Those walls are the only thing we have protecting us from weather and wild animals, intruders and the outside world. Similarly, my children are in rooms in the home and these types of loads can penetrate walls easily. My neighbors are also staying in the neighborhood and I don’t want to risk accidentally killing one of them with a fast, deep penetrating round like a slug or buckshot. In this scenario, I might want to use a field load, even something most experts would never recommend for stopping power: a number 7 ½ shot.

Using such a round would help ensure the wallboard absorbs most of the pellets if I miss my target, the recoil makes it easier for my spouse to handle the shotgun, and my children and neighbors would be safer in many scenarios.

Now, another expert might say this: you won’t have a problem with buckshot over-penetrating if you hit what you aim at and in the case of an attacker or intruder, you wouldn’t want to risk the chance of not stopping them with a single shot, especially in an area as tight as a home or a hallway.

You MUST use buckshot or a heavy slug or at minimum #4 shot to ensure a one shot stop. Using #8 or #7 ½ shot can be shown to be too ineffective and you run the risk of being overpowered, especially against multiple targets.

The important point is that both arguments are right, given specific circumstances. Your job would be to decide which makes more sense to your situation and falls in line with your view of the world.

Personally, I would side with the first argument: that number 7.5 shot is capable of killing in a single shot, and that my walls, my children and the infrastructure of neighbors is too important to me to risk over-penetration in the heat of a gun fight. Furthermore, the #7.5 shot is more readily available, more easily found while scavenging and cheaper to load up on, pre-event. I do personally carry buckshot in my shotgun at almost all times, but often the loads I carry need adjustment, like it would in this instance.

I would then be able to keep my heavy hitting shotgun loads for hunting, dedicated/anticipated gun fights and repelling hordes of attackers. It's all a matter of comfort. I would feel comfortable with this setup; you might not.

A word on shot size:

A number 8 shot is .080" per pellet with about 410 pellets per ounce, while a 00 Buck load will have about 9 pellets per ounce at .33". It's obvious that the drag and separation on the pellets would be greater on the number 8 load, meaning there would be more potential spread and less total impact on target. This allows for a greater chance to miss, theoretically.

The Buckshot would be equivalent to 6 or shots from a 9mm handgun, in the same shot: devastating to most attackers. Remember though that the common data on shotgun spreads is as follows: #8 shot spreads at about 6-8" at 35-40 feet (far more than most homes will have for a gun fight). This same #8 shot will still be hitting the target with several hundred ft. lb's of energy at impact.

Many "internet experts" will say: "but there are cases where a leather jacket has deflected number 8 shot!"; to them I say: I'll gladly pull the trigger with #8 in the chamber if you stand there with a leather jacket on to prove your theory. How many of these "internet experts do you think will take me up on my offer? I'm going to guess

none. For more proof: put a 5 gallon jug of water covered in a leather jacket and pull the trigger, I'm certain the jug will explode violently at 30 feet, let alone the 10-15 feet you're likely to encounter in a home defense situation.

All that said, I often choose to use buckshot in my shotgun for home defense, when my children are away, or when the entire family knows that I will be using it and is instructed to find a safe place to barricade in the case of an intruder.

Shotguns aren't the only firearms needing ammunition though, and the concepts vary for other types of ammo: here is the basic story on loading your guns in a crisis or post event.

First and foremost, make sure you have enough ammunition. I recommend 500 rounds per gun, regardless of overlap; meaning if you have 2 x 9mm pistols you will need 1000 rounds minimum.

If you aren't willing to buy that minimum amount of ammo, but are willing to buy another gun instead, then in the context of this book, you're wasting your money. Without ammunition, your guns are essentially worthless, except maybe as a barter tool and then, you're playing a risky game giving a gun to the "enemy" so to speak.

Things happen, and though I can probably persuade you that 500 rounds is more than you will likely ever need in such a situation, you will lose some ammunition or overuse some without consciously knowing it.

Loads are determined, more often than not by the weight of the projectile. Sure, powder loads vary, but the biggest impact on the ballistics of the load is the grain weight, all things considered. When there is a minimum level of powder involved, the grain weight of the bullet can have a dramatic impact on the functionality of the gun/load.

A good example is the .300 AAC Blackout round, normally a 115 or 125 grain projectile, which is supersonic (faster than the speed of sound), but when it's loaded with a 220 grain bullet it becomes subsonic. That change in weight allows the .300 Blackout round to be one of the quietest loads on the planet.

Generally speaking, the lighter weight the projectile, the faster it is and usually the more potential for penetration in a target there is. The heavier the projectile the more drag it can experience; the harder it can hit on target. Lightweight projectiles can

be difficult to keep on target at intermediate levels, whereas heavyweight projectiles can be difficult to keep on target at long ranges, each can be compensated for, but it's best to try to match the load to the scenario and the target. Another note: often you NEED a specific amount of weight to allow for deep penetration on harder targets, or more heavily layered targets.

In defensive scenarios, my recommendation is to go for the heaviest projectile possible above a specific velocity and always a hollow point if possible. For a situation where you won't have a hollowpoint get the highest weight projectile. What is the reasoning behind this?

The high velocity hollow point projectiles will penetrate deeply and expand fully, whereas in the absence of a hollow point, you will want to get the largest mass projectile you can find. Let's take a .45ACP round as an example: The 45 for home defense or carry duty with hollow points, is probably most effective in a fast 185 grain bullet, as you get an excellent combination of velocity, penetration bullet mass.

But if you don't have enough money to arm yourself with the hollow points, a projectile with nearly a 30% weight increase will still retain enough mass to make an excellent wound channel, without a lot of opportunity for over-penetration.

In general, the speed + absence of mass usually = penetration, and penetration + mass = stopping power (in the simplest and most straightforward terms). This is not ALWAYS the case. At some point, the penetration of a projectile begins to degrade, as the weight drops below a certain point.

Without the momentum carried by a "big enough" projectile, a round will begin to lose penetration as well as stopping power. This is the case with ultra-light 9mm rounds. About the lowest I prefer to have in my guns is 115 grains. Mass is important, because a wound channel must offer an opportunity to bleed out. As harsh as that sounds, it's highly unlikely that you will hit a major internal organ every time you land a shot on your target.

Absent of such an organ shot, you must rely on a combination of penetration, bullet mass and transferred energy to help make the shot a stopper. Without a good mix of these variables, your chance of stopping a target on the first shot goes down exponentially.

I would encourage you to look for comprehensive testing on loads you are considering for your guns, but don't just look at accuracy (remember you only have to hit a man sized target at a specific distance, so 4.5" groups won't be as important in a handgun, as it is in a rifle dedicated to long-range shooting).

You'll want to look at the consistency of speed, the uniformity and weight retention of the bullet and the penetration. You'll also be looking for the highest bullet grain weight that has a reasonable velocity.

With these basic rules of thumb, you can easily choose rounds that match your settings.

A few final notes on ammunition:

Get a variety of loads: several loads are available, and there are a lot of novelty rounds that might make sense for you. For instance, there are shotshells known as buck and ball loads which feature a large lead ball followed by 3 buck shot balls, for a major amount of lead in a tight pattern on target.

Door breaching rounds which use a powdered lead or tungsten to put a tremendous amount of pressure on door hinges, without ricochet danger are also interesting shotshell loads. Such rounds might come in handy at times.

Opt for hollowpoints when you can, but don't be too worried with FMJ (full metal jacket) rounds, as long as you have they right mix of attributes.

Buy factory loaded ammunition or handload your own ammunition; do not trust your safety to reloads.

Test your guns with ALL of your ammunition before you trust your life with it.

Learn to reload.

Check your ammunition to ensure it's safe to fire and store it in a cool dry place to ensure the longest life.

When possible buy brass cased, Boxer Primed ammunition so it's most easily reloaded.

PART 7: ACCESSORIES AND ADD-ONS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AND SERVICING YOUR FIREARM(S)

Every firearm can benefit from additional accessories and ancillary items. The problem is trying to figure out which ones make sense. With all the manufacturers just pumping out anything that will sell, you need to know which items will have the biggest impact on your situation.

Let's make it simple: the first and most important accessory you will want and need is high quality magazines. Generally speaking, the best to get are the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) type. There are better options occasionally, like the Magpul PMAG or the Troy Battlemag for the AR platform.

If you own a shotgun, get a magazine tube extension, which will add at least 2 rounds of shotgun ammunition. The brand doesn't generally matter, as long as the brand enjoys a good reputation among the shooting community.

At the minimum, two extra magazines should be kept in addition to the magazines you got with your firearm. As a rule of thumb, I have at least 5 magazines for each firearm I own. I also keep on hand, 1 set of rebuild parts for each magazine I own. This includes a magazine spring, a follower and a baseplate.

There are other accessories worth having though, including optics. Optics can range from active optics like red dots or laser products, to passive glass based optics, like scopes. An optic is a key piece to defensive planning; allowing the shooter to mitigate a threat or take down an animal before it gets too late. The precision placement of a shot can keep ammunition stores healthy, and the shooter and their family safe.

Optics are expensive, so it's important to understand just what you intend to do with them and pick the right items.

For most situations in a time of crisis, it is realistic for a shot to never exceed the 350 yard range. Shots beyond that point will generally require much more training than the average person has, and equipment far beyond the mainstream. I would argue that it's much more common to see no shot past 175 yards.

In an urban or suburban area, it's even likely that your shot will never have to exceed 35 yards. This lends itself well to heads up, two eyes open optics, which offer quick target acquisition and only slightly degraded precision. ACOG type sights, if you can afford them, make an excellent choice for rifles.

Laser sights can offer the additional intimidation factor in certain settings, but should be overlooked until other choices are exhausted. Long range scopes are important to have if hunting is on the agenda; with at least a 3-9 power scope to ensure easy shots at intermediate ranges.

It's important that you gather facts about the optics you are interested in before you buy one, especially if it is an expensive piece of equipment. You can generally expect to spend between \$150 and \$1000 (or even considerably more) on a high quality optic for your gun.

On my firearms are as follows:

I have a red dot sight on my shotgun for slug shots, which mounts to a rail in conjunction with a rifled barrel. I do not use an optic on my shotgun when using it as a home defense or close quarter defensive weapon.

My AR 15's each have a Trijicon ACOG type sight on them. They also have back up iron sights for times where an optic doesn't make sense or in case of optic failure.

A note about optical sights and back up iron sights:

Iron sights are almost always a must have. I can think of incredibly few instances where I would not advocate for having a set of iron sights on a firearm. In any situation, things can happen, optics can fail, range can be changed unexpectedly, or multiple targets can be presented to the shooter. It is imperative that you have the ability to hit what you are aiming at, at all times. Detachable back up iron sights are en vogue currently and they come with my highest endorsement. If my life depends on hitting what I am aiming at, I won't take any chances that I won't be able to hit that target.

My bolt action rifle has a large power, large objective lens, easily adjustable Glass optic on it. The short eye relief on the scope proves that it is dedicated to me and my shooting style, and that I must be focused on what I am trying to hit. I have this optic dedicated to far reaching shots and try to keep it that way. The extra light gathering capabilities of this large lens ensures I see everything I need to prior to my shot.

My M1A has both an eyes wide open holographic sight (in this case made by Meprolight) and a glass optic with “return-to-zero” Quick detachable rings/mounts. Additionally, I have a flashlight mounted to the front rail.

The mention of this flashlight brings up a good point and offers an excellent Segway: Flashlights can be infinitely important in the course of a crisis or crisis aftermath. First and foremost, they serve as a deterrent, offer early help in identification of threats and can help to ensure that you hit what you intend to.

A scavenger who values their life might think twice when they realize your blinding light has just caught them red handed. That initial flash of light can easily disorient and worry a would-be attacker or pest, and is often able to turn the tide of a potential gunfight. Survival is the point, not necessarily killing people.

While no reader of this text should ever hesitate to protect themselves or their group, it’s not a prerequisite that each reader be a cold and emotionless, rash individual who shoots upon the first sign of human life outside their compound.

A note on mental and emotional preparation: Each reader of this text should know that it is important to determine if they can handle killing a human being or an animal with a firearm, prior to putting themselves in such a situation. Often times, you will not be afforded time to make that determination in the midst of a crisis. The decision and preparation must be enacted well prior to the actual confrontation. Ideally, you will determine a set of circumstances which triggers a response of deadly force. With this set of circumstances in place, you will then be prepared and able to deal with said threat.

Another excellent accessory is a sling. Slings can provide much needed stability and an easy way to keep your gun close at hand. For handguns, instead of a sling you could consider a lanyard to keep your pistol from slipping out of your hand or being easily taken from you by a thief/attacker.

You’ll want a quality sling with at least two attachment points and something that will allow ease of carry, but also tactical positioning. Single point slings are purposefully built for tactical operations and can also be valuable pieces of gear as secondary slings. Get something made of heavy duty strapping, rather than neoprene or leather. Not because neoprene or leather doesn’t have its uses, but because the strap

type slings are tougher, more weather resistant and better suited to adjustment and heavy usage.

There are a hundred other rail mounted, or non-primary accessories that could help you up your game, but none of them are quite as useful across the wide range of situations you will find yourself reacting to during a crisis or after the event.

The firearms marketplace is rife with cool looking, benefit touting items that rarely live up to the hype. There is a difference between marketing and implementation. If you seek out only the highest quality items with the functionality most closely related to your expected conditions, then you will likely be just fine.

Whatever you choose, even if it's in addition to the list compiled here, make sure you aren't putting yourself in a worse position by relying too heavily on a single accessory, or becoming complacent as a result of having it. Furthermore, make sure that you aren't wasting money on an item that gives only negligible performance enhancement, when you could have spent that money on some other, more crucial area of your planning or firearms setup, including good quality training.

Speaking of training...

PART 8: TRAINING

This section is short; mostly because it's one of the most important parts to the entire process of picking a firearm for a crisis situation. It also requires hands on experience and real-time interaction. Because of this, there's no efficient way without real-time training, face-to-face to learn the tactics truly effectively.

You cannot expect to gain significant tactical prowess in a few paragraphs or on a website. This book is about picking a firearm in a major event situation, it's not about training. Training, however, is a major component of the project. You need to know how, when and why to use your firearm in a stressful situation.

Please check out local courses (generally cheaper, and full of excellent tips) and consider 1-2 classes per year of big well known classes from guys like Vickers, Costa and others. These classes will improve your ability to work well under pressure, get familiar with your firearm(s) and know how to build muscle memory and instinctive shooting capabilities.

You'll also want to take a class which focuses on emotion, mental and mindset training. These classes can be found relatively inexpensively, and will have one of the biggest impacts on your capabilities in a stressful setting.

It's also very important to shoot often, run dry drills in your home and grab some snap caps for dry fire training.

A few small tips to get ready for a major event that might help:

Find snapcaps and pull the trigger...A LOT... Getting used to the trigger and breaking it in will give you help in finding a target and staying on it.

Try drawing from a holster (pistols); moving from a hanging position on a sling to a ready position (shotguns and Rifles); and taking long shots without ammunition (Rifles).

Put a penny on the front sight of your pistol and pull the trigger without dropping the penny, while on target.

Practice going into battery (from unloaded to loaded and locked on target) on long guns from an empty position.

Practice reloading a magazine into the firearm.

For revolvers, practice speed reloading.

For those who can afford the cost, consider getting a laser training setup to make sure you are on target when dry firing.

At the range practice drills to gain competency in speed draws and draw to target to shot drills.

Grab a couple of DVD's to get you into the training mode and to pick up some basics, so you don't feel uncomfortable at classes.

Remember, just because we haven't gone too far into the training aspect here, it does not denote that training is not incredibly important. Do everything you can to find the best training courses and get to work.

PART 9: BONUS SECTION HAND TO HAND TOOLS

Being truly prepared will require a backup plan. Well this backup plan involves the best hand to hand tools you can find. An edged weapon is a tried and true partner for a firearm, especially in law enforcement and military.

The Navy SEALs, FBI HRT (Hostage Rescue team-one of the most hardcore Special operations teams in the world) and the local law enforcement SWAT teams in your area are all trained heavily and issued edged weapons that they carry on every mission. The reason is simple: sometimes you are just too close to engage with a firearm, and sometimes things go wrong and you need a last ditch way to protect yourself against a hardened criminal hell-bent on removing you as active opposition to his endeavors. Having the best edged weapons will give you an additional option and ensure you will never be too far away from a tool to save your life, no matter where you are.

I have probably 50 knives stashed around my home, my office, car and on my body. I cannot remember the last time I was without an edged weapon outside of air travel and the courthouse when I testify as an expert witness. The reason is simple, if I can't carry my gun, I must be able to level the playing field against those who would threaten to do me harm. Enter my knife.

Let's make one thing perfectly clear up front: knives are not judged by their pricetag, though there are some excellent (and very expensive) knives out there. A knife is judged by its performance and by your proficiency with it.

SO a few rules of thumb:

1. Don't set a price on quality; find the quality then determine if you agree with the price.
2. Learn to fight with your knife, or at least make an attempt to do so-GET SOME TRAINING!
3. Get a set of stones and learn how to use them. Anyone can buy a sharp knife, but if you know what you're doing, that knife won't be sharp forever. Learn how to take care of it.

You'll want the following:

A fixed knife for fighting; a folding knife; a field knife and a large distance weapon to put some distance between you and your attacker.

Anything more than that and it may be overkill. In all honesty, the best knife you can possibly have, is the one that you have on you. If it's in your hand it's of use to you.

Top picks for a Fixed fighting knife:

1. ColdSteel Recon Tanto: a Classic and well-built knife with a large heavy blade, holds a great edge and has enough heft to chop off a hand, open a major wound in the torso and would be hard to remove from the user's hand. (About \$130) Nearly a foot long overall and with a 7" blade.
2. Kabar Becker Companion: A heavy duty hardcore knife made for weight, balance and power. It's big, strong and sharp. (About \$120) 10.5" Overall 5.25" blade
3. Kiku Matsuda Musasabi: a super high end blade with an aggressive design and a near perfect edge. If you want one of the best knives on the planet for real world usage get this one. (About \$600) A nearly Six inch blade with an overall length of about 11 inches.

Top picks for a folding knife:

1. Kershaw Cryo: Cheap fast and designed by one of the best knife makers in the world (Rick Hinderer) (About \$40)
2. Cold Steel Rajah III: Made for multiple fighting styles, but still quite small. (About \$100)
3. Microtech HALO V: pricy but unmatched for size, capability, speed and attributes. (About \$600)

Top Picks for a Field Knife:

1. Coldsteel Bushman: infinitely useful and can be mounted as a spear, not to mention you won't cry when you throw it. (About \$15)
2. Kabar USMC: The original. (About \$110)

Top picks for a distance edged weapon:

1. Cold Steel Special Forces Shovel: Edged shovel made with enough strength and sharpness to maim or kill; you can also dig a latrine hole with it. (About \$45)

2. SOG Tactical Tomahawk: Straightforward, high quality and cheap. (About \$65)

Some other cool items for your consideration:

A rolled up stack of printer paper: I travel with this on planes, as a way to fight off an edged weapon and to be used as a blunt object for throat and face strikes. It's cheap, effective and while unorthodox, it's ridiculously effective if you know what you are doing.

They're a bit heavy, but easy to use.

A machete: Cheap, intuitive and lethal. A machete is a multipurpose tool that gives you some intimidation factor while putting distance between you and your aggressor.

An Aluminum baseball bat: They won't know what hit them, mostly because they will be suffering from a major hemorrhaging brain injury.

Pepper Spray: the obvious choice for such an event, get the kind that has foam or sticky spray so you avoid blast back (a dose of your own medicine). I prefer Bear spray, as it has a huge blast radius and a lot of volume.

Polymer reinforced training swords: A very lightweight but super strong and potentially deadly katana blade made for Eastern martial arts style weapons training, these things are about the perfect thing to have next to the door.

Get a Flashlight, a Taser and some plastic knives to stash just about anywhere. I keep plastic edged weapons made by Cold Steel (Under \$25) in the shower, the car, the toolbox and the drawer in my bathroom.

When you cannot use your gun, or when you've been disarmed, make sure you have an edged weapon to regain control of the situation.

PART 10: LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Who knows what your world looks like after a major event. Now, let's not get too carried away with the Zombie apocalypse or end of the world fear mongering, but let's be realistic about what could happen, and how to prepare.

If the event that requires you to have a firearm, is something like a one off weather event, even one as bad and far reaching as Hurricane Katrina or Sandy, then you can probably rest assured, some form of help will come within a one month period. Such an event would require you to defend yourself and your family and home, but might not require you to bugout or look for long term shelter and food options.

Some simple planning and a bit of time prior to that event could easily put you in a good position, unless you have some spectacularly bad luck or are affected much worse than others in the event. An event like this can be made more comfortable in many residential settings, with the exception of the most urban areas where population density could cause major issues.

Where there are more people, there is more danger when supplies run low. You do not want to establish yourself as a sitting duck by killing people or threatening people with a gun, when there are likely to be more people than you have ammunition. You certainly do not want to have resources and lose them due to becoming overpowered by the angry mob. You should be looking at prior planning to ensure you have an excellent idea of what to do in an urban or even suburban setting.

Other events might be longer-term, including EMP attacks, multiple nuclear strikes, and an invasion attempt by a foreign power, or a major civil war type situation. These might all sound like crazy talk, but the current state of the world isn't particularly making a case for the opposite to be the norm either.

Major strikes by foreign powers could cause a shortage in food, power and water, and cause a sustained event all depending on your location and the other factors at play. A major epidemic or viral outbreak could also cause such a concern, where resources are so strained that your area is not able to get assistance by the government or other groups for a significant amount of time.

For the Zombie lovers out there: sure, the Zombie apocalypse could cause a sustained situation as well. For instance the New Madrid Fault Line near 5 major cities surrounding the Memphis to St. Louis corridor could experience a major earthquake causing a long term major crisis for Tens of millions of people, many not even directly affected by the earthquake but rather the after effects of the ground zero events.

Let's be realistic though, and assume a 2 month to 9 month crisis management term, as that is the high end of the extreme spread for most major events in an urban setting.

Now, for those who bug-in and bug out in such a situation (one which is sure to be longer-term), the actual planning for a long-term situation is more than just sit and wait with gun in hand. First you should have an exit plan, a fortification plan, a food and water storage plan, and an ammunition store, as well as tools and cleaning equipment. Since this book is outside the scope of the disaster planning mentioned briefly in this paragraph, those topics won't be touched on, but the gun maintenance and ammunition will be.

It's not crazy to think that the situation cannot degrade seriously after it's already bad, and for that, I like to add a factor of 25% to my numbers to insure against a shortfall. Many people would consider that to be too conservative and might add a much higher buffer. I'm a bit more confident in my planning ahead of time, but I would say this: with less planning, add more ammunition and equipment and maintenance items.

Generally speaking, if you look at the focused analysis of your potential situation, you would find that you will use your firearm far less than the Zombie movies or post-apocalyptic movies would have you believe. If you must hunt for food daily and defend against intruders or aggressors on a daily basis, you will probably still be using less than 10 rounds a day of ammunition. If you are in a heavily populated area defending against heavily armed people, perhaps you could expend an average of 75 rounds a day before you start thinking about leaving the area.

By all accounts you would be hardpressed to need more than the recommendations listed below over a long-term scenario. In many cases, you won't even fire your weapon a single time over the course of a day. Even those under heavy

attack in New Orleans, post Katrina, reported expending less than 250 rounds of ammunition over the course of the entire ordeal.

It's entirely likely with a few well thought out firearms, you might only fire a couple rounds from each over the course of a week.

For instance, many large game animals require only a single shot to dispatch, perhaps two. Such an animal might be good for food for several days for a family of four, before the meat becomes inedible or dangerous to eat without significant infrastructure (refrigeration, etc.). That's less than 12 shots a month.

If a human scavenger is not scared off by the chance of death, and must be shot, there is a high likelihood that leaving their body in the street with a sign would make it clear to would-be copycats that they are unlikely to succeed. That's less than 5 shots a month.

Let's assume you need to fend off an entire gang once or twice over the course of the 6 months you're bugged in: 5 guys with tire irons, knives and a gun or two. That's less than 30 shots per occurrence, if you've got good training. Two occurrences = 50-75 shots.

You've just shot approximately 175 rounds. Assuming you prepared well ahead of time, you are in a good position to stay safe.

All that said: I recommend a minimum of 500 rounds of loaded ammunition per firearm.

In addition to that loaded ammo, I recommend some reloading components (enough to reload 1500 rounds, or your minimum stash three times), including a press, dies, tools and lubricants, as well as projectiles, powder and primers. Because this report is too short to allow for an extensive reloading discussion, I urge you to consider this practice and seek out additional information about how to reload your ammunition.

It can be extremely important in the event of a military action against you or your community, a major attack against you by a large group, an extended event or in the event that you are part of a community after the event and must protect your community. You can also use the ammunition as a barter item if it comes down to it.

You should be set up to perform basic maintenance on your firearms with at minimum some handtools to disassemble the main components of the guns, and a comprehensive cleaning kit to keep it operating at peak capacity. Otis makes a relatively inexpensive kit which has my recommendation for about \$100 and will clean just about anything on the planet.

It's small, complete and without detractors. Pair these items with a bottle or two of good lubricant, a couple bottles of solvent and some old toothbrushes. Add in a cut up old t-shirt and you've got a great basic setup that will last a long time.

Try your best to get a set of spare parts for your firearms, as tough situations can occasionally break key parts. This is absolutely essential if you only have a single gun. You should try to have more than one primary firearm, but at minimum grab as many spare parts as you can, with the four most important parts being: Magazine components; spare springs, an extractor and a firing pin. If you have a rifle or shotgun, you should also buy a spare bolt and additional spare recoil spring/buffer spring. These are minimums; without these spare parts you are doing yourself a disservice.

These are the parts most likely to fail, and should always be in your shooting bag. If you are on time constraints or budgetary constraints, you should be focusing on the first four listed: the magazine parts and extractor being the most important, followed by the firing pin and the full spring kit.

Good tools to have are punches for removing pins, a heavy brass hammer, screwdrivers to fit your gun's screws and a pair of needle-nose pliers; again these are minimum tools.

As a recap let's use an example:

If you have 5 guns as follows:

Remington 870 Shotgun; AR-15 5.56; Ruger 10/22; Glock 17 and a 1911 .45 pistol,

Then you should have 500 rounds of ammunition for each of them:

500 12 gauge shotgun shells, including a good amount of personal defense ammunition (like 00 Buck shot), let's say 200 rounds; a bit of rifled slugs, maybe 100 rounds and the balance (200+) in field loads for the wildlife you expect to shoot.

500 5.56 rounds for the AR-15, including a few boxes of heavy weight loads, as long as your barrel twist affords that. I would recommend military style ammunition with bullet grain weights between 50 and 72 grains for the majority of your ammunition. If you are particularly worried about defensive situations, grab some tactical hollow points for defensive loads.

500 (and I would recommend twice that at least) rounds of assorted .22LR ammo, including specialty rounds like no powder rounds to help keep a low-profile, and heavier weight bullets to ensure one shot kills on small animals. Make sure these rounds all function well in your firearm.

500 rounds of 9mm, with at least half of that ammunition being defensive type loads with a hollow point and demonstrated penetration capabilities.

500 rounds of .45ACP, with at least half of that ammunition being defensive type loads with a hollow point.

Additionally, the tools, reloading equipment and components and the cleaning supplies and equipment needed to keep your firearm(s) functioning are equally important in long-term scenarios.

CONCLUSION: THE TIME IS NOW, TO PREPARE FOR USING YOUR FIREARMS IN A SURVIVAL/EMERGENCY SITUATION

This text has been about the holistic view of picking a perfect gun for a bad situation. There is a lot to take in. In all honesty, this has just barely begun to scratch the surface. There are a lot of aspects about this book that could be explored more. What you have is an excellent starting point, a very good introduction to finding a gun for your situation and a lot of industry insight and expert opinion that you can't find in this configuration elsewhere.

The main benefit of this special report is that it gives you all of the knowledge to get started building a diverse but focused arsenal of weapons, or a single gun that can do most everything, and it helps you to determine the catalyst for getting started.

The process of finding the right gun(s) is not one that happens on a single trip to the gun store or overnight by any means. You'll be working on your perfect setup over a good period of time, and you'll learn along the way.

What you need to do is first determine your reasons for wanting to use a gun in a situation, figure out the most likely scenario you would be facing (and the three or four others you worry about), and then take the information contained in this report to start getting your equipment in place.

Start slow; take your time and grab a variety of opinions (from people who seem to make sense and have legitimate credentials to give advice) and then put your hands on everything you can before you make a decision. Touch the ammo, dry fire (shoot it, without ammunition in it) the handgun, rent that rifle on the range and see how it handles and don't be afraid to think on it.

Buy a little here and a little there when it's available and when the pricing makes sense. Don't panic buy unless you are truly convinced that the supply will run out. There is almost always an alternative to your top choice that won't require too much adjustment.

Look for versatility and value; remember that value isn't just low price, but the amount of capability and quality for the money.

Try to look for guns that are complimentary to each other and fit well into your overall planning. Always look for harmony across the board with your items in survival, home defense, prepping, hunting and overall planning. When you understand each part of your preparation you'll be increasing efficiency and capability across the board.

In the end, my credentials are no match for your comfort and protection. You need to always choose what makes sense to you. You need to work out what feels right and what covers the different situations you anticipate you'll be in, in a time of need. You cannot guarantee that a major event will happen anymore than critics of prepping can guarantee that such an event will not happen.

It is; after all, better to be prepared with quality training, resources and life protecting and sustaining items and ideas than it is to be caught off guard and vulnerable when you most need protection.

Preparing doesn't mean you're crazy, it just means you're thinking about the future. Be as silent or as outspoken as you want to be, but please observe legalities, utilize good information and exercise sound reason when finding the right guns to protect your family and home with, it may be the only thing that keeps you alive.