FORTUNE FAVORS THE PREPARED · INTELLIGENCE ONE-PAGER

Know Before It Matters

A household intel routine: get warned, check daily, tell rumor from fact.

1. Get warned.
2. Check every day.
3. Verify before you act.
4. Decide early.
5. Don't become the target.

1 The intelligence cycle, household size · trouble gives off signals before it arrives; analysts use these five steps to catch them, and so can you

1. Direction
What do we need to know?
Top hazards, routes, people.

→

2. Collection
Where do warnings show first?
Alerts, weather, neighbors.

→

3. Processing
Which of it can we trust?
Check the source first.

→

4. Analysis
What does it mean for us?
For this house, this week.

→

5. Decision
What do we do, or not yet?
Act, get ready, or watch.

2 Set up your alerts · do this today

- ☐ **Phone alerts on.** iPhone: Settings → Notifications → Government Alerts. Android: search Settings for "emergency alerts".
- ☐ **County alerts, where you live and where you work.** Search your county name plus "alerts" and sign up. They often give the *why* behind a closure.
- ☐ **NOAA Weather Radio** set to your county's SAME code. Works when cell towers don't.
- ☐ **Know your sirens.** A siren means tornado in one town and the nuclear plant in another. Learn yours.

Why both? Phone alerts (IPAWS/WEA) reach every phone in the warning area. County alerts reach only those who signed up, but some let you reply "I'm safe".

3 Your 10-minute daily check · same sources, same order

Check	Look for	My source
Weather	NWS forecast and hazardous weather outlook	
Alerts	Anything new from your county overnight	
Power & water	Utility outage map; boil-water notices	
Roads	511 or state DOT; closures on your routes	
Local officials	County emergency mgmt, sheriff, schools	
Wider picture	A daily brief, e.g. FFTP Daily Preparedness Brief	
Community	Neighbors, group chat, local radio net	

The question each day is **"what changed since yesterday?"** Log it: a trend shows up before it's news.

4 Verify before you act or share · four questions for anything you see, hear or read

Reliability
Who is this? Have they been right before?

Access
Were they in a position to know, or are they passing it on?

Corroboration
Does a second, *independent* source confirm it? Fifty posts of one story is still one source.

Noise
Could it be old, wrong, or posted to stir people up?

Then say how likely it is, in the words the intelligence community uses (ICD 203), so "likely" means the same thing to everyone in the house:

Almost no chance | Very unlikely | Unlikely | Even chance | Likely | Very likely | Almost certain

And how sure you are, which is a separate call:

- **High** — Several good sources agree.
- **Moderate** — Credible, not yet confirmed.
- **Low** — One source, or mostly guesswork.

"The water plant is contaminated, don't drink the tap." Who posted it? Did the utility or county say so? Until they do: **unlikely, low confidence**. Fill a few jugs, keep checking, don't forward it.

5 Decide early: set tripwires

Pick the signal and the action **now**, while you're calm. Before settling on one explanation, list every one that fits and ask what the evidence **rules out**.

If we see...	...we do
Winter Storm Watch for our county	*Fuel up, refill meds, charge everything*
Boil-water notice for our area	*Switch to stored water, fill the tubs*

6 Report what you see: SALUTE

Pass on what you see in a set order so nothing gets lost:

Size	Activity	Location	Unit	Time	Equip.
Count? *2 people*	Doing what? *Trying doors*	Where? *Elm St #40*	Look? *Dark hoodies*	When seen? *02:15*	Carrying? *Light, bag*

Facts, not guesses. After a disaster the **Community SITREP** does this for a whole neighborhood.

7 OPSEC: don't become the target · every way you gather information can also be used on you

- ☐ Don't post where you are while you're there.
- ☐ Don't share travel plans until you're back.
- ☐ Don't discuss supplies or plans outside the family.
- ☐ No photos showing address or valuables.
- ☐ Turn off photo location tags.
- ☐ Skip stickers that say what's at home.

Before you post, talk or share, ask: **"Would this help someone learn my routine or my resources?"** If yes, don't.

Free courses
INT-03 Reporting Formats (SALUTE, SPOT, SALT, SITREP) and SEC-02 Know What You're Showing (OPSEC).

Free tool
Ready Messenger: SALUTE, SITREP and the other report forms, with a hint on every line. Reads, prints and logs.

Keep it with your plan
Ready Ledger keeps your contacts, tripwires and family plan in one place, offline.

The full Intelligence section
fortunefavorstheprepared.com/intelligence/

The QR code opens *Intelligence*: alerts, OSINT, analysis, OPSEC and community intel.

Likelihood and confidence terms from ODNI ICD 203; SALUTE from U.S. Army FM 6-99.

Remember, Fortune Favors the Prepared
Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby