FORTUNE FAVORS THE PREPARED · NAVIGATION PILLAR ONE-PAGER

Navigation: Know Where You Are, Get Where You're Going

Phones die and roads close. Name a place so anyone can find it, get there without a signal, get found, and find your family again.

1. How do I say where I am?
2. Can I get there without GPS?
3. How do I get found?
4. Can I trust my GPS?
5. Where do we meet?

1 Grid coordinates · one place, one name

- **"Near the big oak" fails** under stress, at night and with strangers. A grid reference means one square of ground and nothing else.
- **MGRS:** zone + 100 km square + easting + northing, e.g. **17S LF 1234 5678**. Always an even number of digits.
- **Read right, then up.** Easting first, northing second.

Digits	4	6	8	10
Square	1 km	100 m	10 m	1 m

- **Read the margin first:** scale, contour interval, datum and declination.

NAV-01 Grid Coordinates and Map Reading /nav-01-landing/ Patreon

2 Map and compass · no battery needed

- **Three norths:** true, grid and magnetic. The gap (declination) is on the map margin, but it **drifts every year**: check the current value at NOAA.
- **Orient the map** to the ground before you plan a step.
- **Keep metal away:** phones, radios, vehicles and rifles pull the needle.
- **Back azimuth:** add 180° (or subtract if over 180°) to find the way back.
- **Know your pace count** (paces per 100 m) and track legs: bearing + distance.
- **In town:** use street grids and address numbers, landmarks and handrails. Know your chokepoints.

NAV-02 Map and Compass Land Navigation /nav-02-landing/ Patreon

NAV-04 Urban Navigation and Mapping /nav-04-landing/ Patreon

3 Emergency signaling · say "help" and "here"

- **Every signal must say both:** I need help, and where I am.
- **Rule of three:** 3 whistle blasts, flashes or fires, evenly paced. **Two back** means "heard you": stay put and keep signaling.
- **Carry:** whistle, signal mirror, light or strobe, and a 406 MHz PLB or satellite messenger.

V	X	→	3 m+
Need help	Need medical help	Going this way	per stroke, in the open

- **Register a PLB with NOAA** (renew every 2 years). False distress calls are a crime. Always leave a trip plan.

NAV-03 Emergency Signaling /nav-03-landing/ Patreon

4 Using a GPS · a fix is a claim, check it

- **Four systems** (GPS, GLONASS, Galileo, BeiDou). A receiver needs at least **4 satellites** for a 3-D fix.
- **Match the device to the map:** same datum (WGS 84 vs older NAD 27 sheets) and same format. A mismatch can put you tens of meters off with no warning.
- **Mark waypoints now:** home, meeting points, water, the car. Record tracks so you can backtrack.
- **Expect it to fail:** canyons, buildings, tree cover, cold batteries, jamming. Download offline maps; carry spares and a paper map.

NAV-06 Navigation Using a GPS /nav-06-landing/ Patreon

5 Rally points, link-up and route contingencies · when phones and roads fail

Tier 1: just outside home
The mailbox or a neighbor's driveway. For a fire or gas leak.

Tier 2: outside the neighborhood
A library, school or place of worship you can walk to.

Tier 3: out-of-area contact
A person, not a place. Everyone texts them: "Safe. At Tier 2."

- **Text first.** Texts get through when calls won't.
- **Set a wait time** in advance. One person searches; everyone else stays.
- **Plan a real alternate route,** a hard turnaround time and bail-out points.
- **Can't confirm it's passable?** Treat it as impassable. Turn around, don't drown.

NAV-05 Rally Points, Linkup, and Route Contingencies /nav-05-landing/ Patreon **PLN-10** Family Emergency Plan Free

6 Your nav kit · one per bag

- ☐ **Paper map** of your area, in a zip bag, with your grid zone marked
- ☐ **Baseplate compass** with adjustable declination
- ☐ **Pencil and a grid card** (meeting points, contact numbers)
- ☐ **Whistle and signal mirror** on your body, not in the pack
- ☐ **Headlamp** and spare batteries
- ☐ **GPS or phone** with offline maps, plus a power bank
- ☐ **PLB or satellite messenger** for remote trips

7 Practice this month · 10 minutes each

- ☐ Find the **8-digit grid** for your front door and your Tier 2 point
- ☐ Walk a measured **100 m** twice and learn your pace count
- ☐ In a park, **shoot a bearing**, walk it, then walk the back bearing home
- ☐ Check your **GPS datum and format** against your paper map
- ☐ Everyone **texts the out-of-area contact** once
- ☐ **Drive or walk the alternate route** home from work or school

Free deep reads
The Big Oak Problem (grids) and Three Norths (compass) at fortunefavorstheprepared.com.

Take the courses
Every NAV course has a free landing page and course map. Start at /curriculum/.

Write it in Ready Ledger
Rally points, routes and activation plans in your Family Emergency Plan, printed for every family member.

Free basics + all NAV courses: *Navigation & Signalling*
fortunefavorstheprepared.com/navigation-signalling/
Grids, map and compass, signaling, GPS and rally points, each with a free basics page. Checked November 2026.

Remember, Fortune Favors the Prepared
Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby