FORTUNE FAVORS THE PREPARED · INTELLIGENCE ONE-PAGER

The Intelligence Disciplines

What each "INT" means for a prepared household, and where to start.

OSINT for the baseline.
HUMINT for local context.
SIGINT for system stress.
MASINT & IMINT to confirm.
ACH to test your thinking.

1 Preparedness is an intelligence problem

Every major disruption gives off signals before it fully arrives: storms, grid failures, unrest, supply problems. The difference between panic and control is being able to **recognize, interpret and verify** those signals. Professionals split that work into disciplines. You don't need their budget, just their questions. This is awareness, not spying: civilian, legal and ethical.

2 The disciplines, civilian edition · what it is, the question it answers, and a first step

OSINT
Open-source intelligence

Weather data, alerts, public records, outage maps, news and social media.

"What's being reported?"

Start: pick 5 sources and check them daily.

HUMINT
Human intelligence

Conversations, behavior changes, people close to events.

"What are people actually doing?"

Start: know your neighbors before you need them.

SIGINT
Signals intelligence (COMINT, ELINT)

What's transmitting, what's busy, what's gone quiet.

"What's under stress right now?"

Start: a scanner on local public-safety channels.

MASINT
Measurement & signature

Heat, smoke, sound, vibration, radiation, weather readings.

"Is it really happening, or just talk?"

Start: a weather station; know your normal.

IMINT / GEOINT
Imagery & geospatial

Maps, satellite and radar imagery, terrain, routes.

"Where does it affect me, and what paths are left?"

Start: paper maps with 3 routes out.

TECHINT
Technical & infrastructure

Power, water, fuel, cell and transport systems, and how they fail.

"What depends on what?"

Start: list what your house runs on.

ES / ECS
Electronic surveillance & counter-surveillance

What others can monitor, track or collect about you.

"What do I give off?"

Start: radio discipline and OPSEC.

ACH
Analysis of competing hypotheses

Weighs evidence against every explanation, not just the favorite.

"What else could explain this?"

Start: before acting, list 3 explanations.

3 How they work together · no single source or signal is enough

OSINT Baseline awareness → **HUMINT** Local context → **SIGINT & ES** Watch for system stress → **MASINT & IMINT** Confirm on the ground → **ACH** Test your assumptions → **Decide** Adjust deliberately, not emotionally

Preparedness isn't about predicting the future. It's about recognizing when the present is changing.

4 Listen first: a starter SIGINT kit

- ☐ **NOAA Weather Radio** set to your county's SAME code.
- ☐ **A scanner** with your county's fire, EMS, roads and utility channels. Many are free to stream online too.
- ☐ **Your local ham repeater and net.** Learn what normal sounds like on a quiet evening.
- ☐ **A log.** Note time, channel and what changed. Patterns matter more than one call.

> **Even silence is intelligence.** A busy channel that goes quiet, or a repeater that drops off the air, tells you something has failed.

Stay legal: listening to unencrypted public-safety radio is allowed in most places, but a few states restrict scanners in vehicles, and intercepting phone calls or trying to break encryption is a federal crime.

5 Every sensor works both ways

Each discipline you use can also be used **on you**. That's where counter-surveillance and OPSEC come in:

Channel	What it gives away
OSINT	Posts, photos, public records, stickers on the car
HUMINT	What you, and your kids, tell people
SIGINT	Radio chatter, phones, Wi-Fi, trackers
IMINT / GEOINT	Street-view imagery, location data, routines

Know when **not** to broadcast. Keep radio traffic short and plain, and don't advertise what you have.

6 Your first week · one small job a day

Mon · Direction
Write down the 3 things you most need early warning about.

Tue · OSINT
Bookmark your 5 daily sources: weather, alerts, outages, roads, county.

Wed · SIGINT
Find your county's public-safety channels and listen for 20 minutes.

Thu · HUMINT
Swap numbers with two neighbors. Who works at the hospital or utility?

Fri · GEOINT
Mark 3 routes out on a paper map, and a rally point.

Sat · OPSEC
Look at your own social media as a stranger would. Clean it up.

Start free
INT-03 Reporting Formats and SEC-02 Know What You're Showing: two free courses.

Go deeper
Courses INT-01 ACH and INT-02 Radio Traffic Situational Analysis turn these into skills.

We watch so you don't have to
The Daily Preparedness Brief: the same collection and analysis, in plain language, every weekday.

Every discipline, in depth
fortunefavorstheprepared.com/intel-gathering/
The QR code opens *Intel Gathering*, with the video *Intelligence: Start Here*.
Built from *Intelligence Gathering & Analysis* and the discipline guides.

Remember, Fortune Favors the Prepared
Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby