

15 hours could save your life – and your country

by Tim Cimino

In 2014, I learned that the electric power grid that the United States and Canada share is vulnerable: It could blackout *for months*, potentially from coast to coast, because huge transformers in the grid could permanently be destroyed. Most are no longer made in this country, and each has unique specifications. Thus 340 million people are vulnerable.

The grid could blackout from any of four reasons: a large solar flare; one high-altitude nuclear detonation that would be too far up to harm people directly; terrorist attacks to nine key transformers that would bring down the rest; and cyber-attacks. The odds are not tiny, like the odds of a super volcano eruption, for instance. The odds are roughly in the same range as having a house fire or a major car accident. In other words, you don't expect a house fire or car accident this year, but you still get insurance in case it happens.

Almost no mainstream media covers the grid's vulnerability. The consequences are too disturbing. No electricity would mean no factory production of food, fuel or medicine; no heat or air conditioning for most people; no cell phone or internet communication; and therefore no contact with police, firefighters and paramedics.

The grids of China, Russia and some other countries are not vulnerable because their governments own the grids and have already upgraded their grids.

I learned that Congress has been aware of the problem since 2004 and in twelve years had *done almost nothing* to protect the grid, nothing to force the utilities to upgrade their equipment, and nothing to require Homeland Security to create a robust rescue and recover plan. When I learned this, I felt angry and betrayed.

Most people decide this is a doomsday scenario. Some become terrified, and then quickly put it out of their heads. It's too overwhelming to think about. About 1% of the country spends thousands of dollars to prepare. Of course, most people can't afford this.

After doing more research I felt despair. There seemed to be no solution that would protect everyone. Finally, I worked out a powerful and fast solution that you can use to protect yourself, loved ones and the country.

My central insight was to think of this not as a doomsday situation, but as a simple *insurance* situation. You insure yourself by doing five things that take about 15-20 hours total. Then you move on with your life, since you have some essential "coverage."

Before I explain what the 15-20 hours involves, let's agree that no one likes to pay for insurance, but they do when they need to protect something. You'll find that the 15-20 hours gives you much more protection than any other form of insurance you already have. You are protecting your life and protecting yourself from great misery and hardship. It's a one-time expense of time and some money for supplies. Here are the details:

First, people spend about an hour learning why the grid is vulnerable. I created a website, GridEmergency.Org, and link to short videos, official government documents, and newspaper articles so that people become 100% convinced that the threat is real. (On that website there's a "Key Videos" webpage, and from the "Problem" page, there's a drop-down to an "Information Sources" page. This page links to the official documents.)

Second, people spend 4-6 hours doing the most essential preparation. From the homepage you can download **a free 40-page PDF** about how to prepare. The PDF shows how many things that you already own can be re-purposed to protect you. Those who can afford it would spend about \$300 per person for food, supplies and a few essential pieces of equipment, for instance, to cook food or collect water. Unlike the more costly forms of insurance that you already pay for, the \$300 is a one-time cost, not a recurring expense! It can protect you for about two to three months. (Note: a blackout could last a year, but within 2-3 months a rescue and recovery effort should be well underway.)

If people absolutely cannot afford \$300 to prepare, they should spend enough to at least be prepared for two weeks. If even that is impossible, they can still learn valuable information from the PDF. They can also pass the information on to people and local nonprofits that can be their safety net. (They can also learn more preparation skills and knowledge that will make them valuable to others.) Finally, they spend *more* time doing the advocacy mentioned below.

Note: if you have difficulty staying focused on action, ask a friend to be your support and accountability person. Plan to accomplish at least one task daily, and text your friend the result. Or ask them to text you each day or two, asking for a progress report.

Third, people need to contact government to do three kinds of advocacy:

a) Contact President Trump and your members of Congress, urging the President to issue an executive order to expand the responsibilities and authority of the Congressional EMP Commission into a joint Presidential-Congressional Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection to spearhead and oversee the shielding of the grid *quickly*, so that the job is not entrusted to the slow-moving federal bureaucracy.

b) Pressure national, state and local government to purchase and stockpile supplies for the roughly 30% who can't afford to prepare or who won't prepare. This would cost about \$40 billion, and should be pushed as *emergency funding* (just as when billions are given for disaster relief.) Many people doubt that the government could act so quickly, but let me remind you that we're all in the same boat and our survival is at stake. Thus, the critical mass to force the government to act can be reached quickly.

c) Urge your members of Congress to mandate that Homeland Security and FEMA quickly work out the rest of a national rescue & recovery plan.

Fourth, people need to inform and support close friends and out-of-town family to follow their example. You'd emphasize the low-cost solution and the good feelings that come

from being prepared. Once people have had time to learn about the problem, they should be encouraged to create a shopping and preparation plan and to begin on it right away.

Fifth, after some of your friends and family have prepared, you should actively support them to inform and support *their* extended family and friends. This would lead to a chain-reaction of preparation and advocacy. The key is to treat this as urgent. If each person passes this on to four others within seven days, it would reach everyone in both countries in about five months.

Realistically, some people you talk to won't prepare or tell others. Don't be disheartened. If this chain reaction spreads, then other people they know will urge them to prepare, and then it will seem more real and urgent to them.

Finally, take a few minutes to let GridEmergency.Org know what you've done, so that we can broadcast these preparation and advocacy actions to others, to help inspire them.

This Grid Emergency approach has four benefits: 1) It boosts a person's security and optimism *as soon as* they began to prepare. Then people don't feel so helpless and trapped. 2) When you successfully pass it on to loved ones, you'll feel even more relief and optimism. 3) The plan offers significant protection for almost every mega-disaster — from hurricanes and earthquakes, to pandemics, limited nuclear war, or anything disrupting the global economy. 4) Each person who prepares and does advocacy tips the balance away from a nightmare mass-terror scenario towards a calm “camping out at home while the grid is being repaired” scenario.

Let's summarize. Right now, you and your loved ones are vulnerable. I created a low-cost approach that protects you, loved ones and everyone else in the country. You are probably going to see this as bad news and an interruption to your life. But it's better to see this as a clear priority and something you need to do as soon as possible, so you can FEEL GOOD that you handled the situation quickly and took care of loved ones. Focus on how great it will be to have quickly mastered some survival skills and knowledge.

The plan is beautifully efficient. In just 15-20 hours you protect yourself, loved ones, strangers, the economic future of the country, and the economic and political stability of the world! Then you move on with your life. – Thus, in less than six months Americans and Canadians would no longer be easily terrorized. We'd be ready for anything.

[P.S. I spent more than 700 volunteer hours to create GridEmergency.Org and the free 40-page PDF on how to prepare. That way, your time in learning and acting will be much less! Please pass this on. The power of your network and personal efforts is immense!]

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