

## Description of Sarajevo Experience: How to Survive a Financial & Security Collapse (Get out of the City!)

[http://www.shtfplan.com/emergency-preparedness/a-survival-q-a-living-through-shtf-in-the-middle-of-a-war-zone\\_10252011](http://www.shtfplan.com/emergency-preparedness/a-survival-q-a-living-through-shtf-in-the-middle-of-a-war-zone_10252011)

*"I don't anymore believe government and authority, not at all. When they really doing their best to assure you that everything going to be fine, you can be sure that something bad is happening."*

### Physical Security

1. Community organizes by X number of houses
2. Five man patrol every night (Night Shift)
3. Move only at night to avoid "Sniper Alleys." Never leave your compound during the day.
4. Always move at night; never go alone but also never go in big group (2-3 man maybe); always armed, very fast, always in shadows, through ruins, rarely openly on the street, actually always hiding... never attract with anything, look like everybody else, if most folks look desperate, poor, dirty you need to look same, there is no need that everybody know you have good amount of food, ammo , clean cloths and everything else back at home. Look and act like everybody else; I never walked in big groups, at that time a big group is gang.
5. My group was only my family, my blood (relatives like uncles, grandmother...), on my street and in my town trips I had some close friends, but my best friends was my family. I never take strangers into my close group.
6. One man survivor, no chance, no matter how well armed and prepared, at the end you gonna die,
7. I did not fight for religion or ethnicity, i fought to keep my family and myself alive...a lot of switch sides
8. About small family, hmm, not good, usually few smaller families get together in biggest house and stay together, all relatives (my case); Small family or single man, not good for survive in town SHTF; Even if you stay low profile, hidden in your house with lot of food etc, sooner or later mob will come, and you have maybe have one or two guns, very hard. I agree with low profile policy, it is very important not to attract people with anything, but when they come, you need to have numbers, people and guns, best people is your family. When somebody attack you or your family then you need to show that you are very ready.
9. Concerning the smell of the food, hm, i ll try to picture situation: no electricity, no running water, sewage off for months, dead bodies in ruined houses, grime and mess, believe me it was very hard to smell something nice. It was not like in movies, it was ugly,dirty, and smelly.
10. Yes i had few problems because of cooking, only few, but as i sad before, enough people, properly armed and with will to defend and you can manage most of the problems with that.
11. First almost nobody were out during the day because of snipers, line of defence was very close
12. Lot of people get killed because they go somewhere just to see what happening, or what s new) remember, no news, no radio ,no tv, nothing, rumors fed lot of people.
13. I did have situations concerning my house, we had more fire power, and brick wall.
14. Also we had street watch, people from my street were organized in case of gangs, there were a lot shootings.
15. There was pretty much shooting in town, i did not have enough weapon at the beginning,
16. How much ammo ? A LOT, as more as you can.
17. Most of the time you are not able to determine who is enemy or friend; When your friend must choose between his child s death and your death guess who is going to choose.
18. It was primitive pretty much, brick wall around house, bags of sand on windows and doors, over that bags we used whatever you can, big pieces of metal, stones, inside house we put all kind of stuff on windows, only small opening left for rifle, always 5 members of family ready for fight, one always outside on street hidden.
19. I do not see big family or group of really ( i mean really) good friends as more mouth to feed, i see them as more guns and strength, it is in people nature to adapt.
20. And keep it simple and use common sense, in the first period weak people vanished, other fight.

21. Defence were very primitive, again we were not prepared, we use what ever we could, windows were broken, roofs mostly damaged from shelling, all windows were blocked with something, sand bags and rocks, every night i blocked my yard gate with junk- rubble from the street and i use old alluminium ladder to get over the wall, when i come back i called somebody from house to get me that ladders so i can move in.
22. Guy from my street barricaded his house completely, if he go out at night he use a hole that he maded in one room that is connected with neighbor s house, and go through his (ruined and destroyed) house out, actually he had secret entrance.
23. It may look weird to say but most secured houses are gone first, of course we had some very nice houses in neighborhood, with walls, dogs, alarms, steel bars on windows, alarms. And you can guess what happened, mob attacked those houses first, some were defended other not, depend how many guns and hands they have inside.
24. So i think security is great, but be sure that you keep it low profile, forget about alarm, if you live in town and SHTF you gonna need simple looking non interesting secured house, with lot of guns and ammunitions. Just keep it low profile and not interesting.
25. On my apartment door now i have steel door for security reason, but only to keep me through first short period of chaos, then i am moving out to connect with bigger group of armed people (family and friends) in the country (i hope)
26. I know one thing if we had some way out from the town, we would use it, we did not have it.
27. In that period there is not running vehicle, actually i remember tank at the front line, and Lada Niva ( check it on web) with cut of doors and roof and installed machine gun ( i think it was an old m53) and those two only moved when they fired( they keep it hidden behind ruined houses). For let me call it "civilian population" there was no moving with vehicles, streets were mostly under rubble and unusable and fuel was too expensive.
28. Not to draw attention was a big thing, about clothing, there use to be some sort of town defense, it was not like real military, mostly mixed civilian clothes with part of uniforms, different weapon, so no rules.
29. As i said before there was not organized army, but we all been like soldiers, we had to, most of us carry weapon and try to protect from enemy army and robbers.
30. Inside the town you did not want to look fancy because somebody shoot you and took your good stuff, you did not want to have fancy rifle, because probably you not gonna find ammo in that caliber and also you are drawing attention.
31. So let s me try to put it this way: if SHTF tomorrow, i will try to look like most of the people outside, scared, desperate, confused and I'll scream maybe, no fancy looking stuff, I'll not go out in fancy new uniform and yell "I am here, you are finished now looters and robbers" I 'll stay low profile, heavily armed and well prepared waiting to see my options, even if i have to go out with all my gear to do things I'll go in night, with best friend or brother. Maybe sounds ridiculous, but from my experience it works, be very well prepared, but let nobody outside your house know or see that.
32. No matter how good is your house security, how good is your weapon, if people see that they have good reason to rob you they probably rob you in town SHTF, it is only matter of time and number of guns. Don t ever give them reason to be interesting for robbing. Stay uninteresting. Now this is my opinion, maybe is not working in different situation.
33. About robbing grocery store and gas stations, it happened very very fast, as soon as shooting started all valuable things was emptied, there was some effort of authority to keep it together but everything fall apart in first weeks.

## Health & Hygiene

1. My opinion that hygiene things is more important maybe than food, you can easily shoot pigeon; Water purifying pills, all kind of cleaning stuff, sanitizers, lot of soap, bleach, gloves, masks, all disposable, take very good care about first aid training, learn how to treat smaller cuts, burns or even gunshot wound, there is not hospital, even if you found doctor somewhere he probably do not have any meds; Learn how and when to use antibiotics and have it a lot;
2. Q: What was your bathroom situation? Where did you go? Did you have anything to wipe with? Sorry ask such personal questions, but this is something that I've wondered about in this type of situation.  
we used shovel and any piece of land close to house, sounds dirty, and it is dirty, washing with collected rainwater, sometimes go to river (most of the time that was too dangerous) Most of the time we did not have toilet paper, even if i had it, i trade it.
3. Q: What about medical care for people who were shot or became injured? Wounds was mostly gunshot wounds of course, without specialists and everything else, if wounded manage to find doctor somewhere he had like 30% chances to live, again it is not movie, mostly they died, lot of died even from minor cuts infections, i had antibiotics maybe for 3-4 treatment. Of course for my family only.
4. Simple things killed people, diarrhea can kill you in a few days without meds and rehydration, (fluid therapy, IV) especially small kids. Lot of fungal skin diseases, and food poisoning, we could not do too much. Basically we treated diseases mostly with local herbs, and if you had wound, put rakia on it and try to find antibiotics somewhere.
5. In SHTF things are different, learn how to open IV, when to use certain drug, or antibiotics.
6. Get your self ANA TE (anti tetanus ) shot injections , snake poison kit, adrenaline kit (allergic reactions, different kinds) tick removal kit, (Tick related illness can kill you, learn how to remove Tick)...
7. Get in your prepper storage some reanimation kit (simple one) like small oxygen cylinder, BVM mask etc. It is not really hard to learn to use all of these. OK let s clear something, of course you cannot use anything of this in real world unless you are certified and trained for that ( EMT, nurse, physician ). But in SHTF nobody ask you for license, just learn and have in your storage big part for medical things.

## Bartering & Food

1. If i can give some advice: first to prep is a weapon and ammo, then everything else, i mean everything, depends how much money and space you have, if you forget something no problem there is always somebody ready for trade, but if you forget guns and ammo then you may not be able to get to trading places.
2. Q: Did your local currency/money still hold value? Were you still able to use money to purchase items? No, not really, trade was main thing to get something. Local currency crashed very fast, in few weeks or month maybe.
3. Usable Petrol is like gold
4. Butane lighters worth a small fortune. Use propane cylinders to refill (barter= 1 can/candle)
5. My point is to learn things, people always need somebody who know to fix things.
6. I have big garden with that house and some good knowledge about gardening and farming.
7. I believe you need to focus on small things for trade, pocket knives, lighters, flints. Also LOT of alcohol; trash bags, duct tape,
8. Most of the time i collect my water from roof in 4 big barrels during the war, then cooked to disinfect,
9. About gold and silver, yes, me personally gave all my gold for ammunition, but it did not worth too much.
10. For most of the people it was constant search for something, fire,wood,food,ammo...
11. Was salt valuable? It was valuable yes, but not much, for example coffee or cigarettes worth much more.

12. Q What about cigarettes? Hm, i had a lot of alcohol as i mentioned before, i traded almost everything without any problem, let me say it like this: consumption of alcohol was probably 10 times more than in normal time. Not to mention cleaning and disinfection. if you have money and time and you have a storage it is probably better to store cigarettes or candles and batteries for trade, or food.
13. Cooking: so when everything started i traded some stuff for some kind of old wood stove, i put it in kitchen and fix exhaust pipe (right word?) through hole in wall, i use that for cooking and heating. During the summer i cooked in my backyard (walled fence, brick, luckily)
14. I ate mostly some kind of pancakes with local herbs (does not require cooking oil and too much firewood), and of course everything what i could get and trade, rice was good to eat, not too much firewood for that.
15. Go with small thing, lighters, candles, flints. It is great idea to have fuel generator (electrical generating unit?) but i think is better idea to have 1000 bic lighters. Fuel generator is great, but in shtf scenario in town it is going to attract whole army, 1000 bic lighters don't take too much space, cheap, you can always trade it for something.
16. Real SHTF scenario demands completely change of normal mindset, hard to explain, i'll try through examples.
17. (I remember you saying a car battery for a rifle) and where would I go to find the people who trade in weapons?
18. First days of SHTF is worst in terms of chaos and panic, maybe you not gonna have time to get gun. And to be unarmed in chaos panic and riots is bad.
19. Q: How much space should I keep for alcohol storage? What was security like? About alcohol first, you're right but you are right in both ways, people need alcohol more in desperate times than usual, so it is kind of gambling i guess, it is very good item for trading, i never had problems with alcohol trading and having than problems with trading other things.
20. Also i am thinking about something else, maybe it is better to fill my storage with something less space consuming but still interesting for trade, like batteries, antibiotics etc.
21. In most of the situations people attack me because they think they are stronger, they did not know for sure what i really had.
22. About ammunition trade, it depends how much ammo you are going to have, sometimes i trade ammo for food, and in few weeks again food for ammo, but i never never do trade at my home, and never bigger amounts, very few people knew how much of anything i had in my house.
23. The point is store as much of anything as you can store (space, money) later during the situation you'll see what is most popular, correction ammo and guns always gonna have 1 place for me, but who knows maybe number 2 for trading gonna be for example masks with filters.
24. Q: What was the situation with banks and stores? About banks, loans, credit cards. Complete monetary system died for about one year, so nothing work. They changed it 2-3 times, hyperinflation occurs, lost paper trails about savings, loans ... i remember some people use that situation to get rich, they still rich " :)
25. There was a lot problems with proving people's property after everything, for example: my father had nice apartment and because war he must leave it, after war ended he was at court for about 4 years
26. On the other side during the worst period, people just moved in empty house, and that's it.
27. I mention rural areas in other post. As far as i remember it was better there.