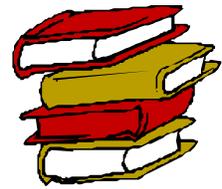


# Live Free USA Survival Book List

By James C. Jones, CHCM / EMT  
(Updated August 2016)



I am frequently asked "What books would you recommend for me to learn more about survival?" After 40-years of study many of the books I started with are out of print. I have a few hundred on the shelves and more in tote-bins. I tend not to buy the newest books because most of the information is already on my shelves. Since there is such a great variety of survival concerns and every person and family will have a unique set of attitudes and challenges, there can be no one or two books that will contain everything you need to know. Some books are dry manuals, others are pure data, and some contain survival information in a narrative or as a novel. The reader should seek out the information that fits his or her greatest concerns and is the most readable and understandable. This list is not completed and will continue to change as newer publications are added and others are deleted. I have categorized my recommendations for your convenience. I welcome the reader's comments and further recommendations.

## General Survival Preparedness and Self-Reliance

**Back to Basics**, edited by Abigail R. Gering. A very well illustrated and organized book that covers many basic rural self-reliance subjects, including gardening, well digging, food preservation, raising chickens, sheep and goats, and many other skills. 450 pages, 8 ½ x 11, hardcover, \$24.95 from Skyhorse Publishing, NY. [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

**The Ultimate Guide to US Army Survival Skills, Tactics, and Techniques**, edited by Jay McCullough. Actually a reprint of rearrangement of US Army survival manuals. This is a very big, black and white illustrated manual covering outdoor survival, first aid, navigation, fire craft, combat, shelter-building and much more. 953 pages, 8 ½ x 11, softcover, \$24.95 from Skyhorse Publishing, NY. [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

**Beyond Survival** by James C. Jones. This book covers basic alternative methods of replacing each essential survival need and service now provided by our public utilities, services and business. Included are methods to provide food, clean water, sanitation, protection, transportation and all other necessities of life when the grid fails. 199 pages, softcover, \$19.95 from Paladin Press, [www.paladin-press.com](http://www.paladin-press.com)

**The Complete Guide to Edible Wild Plants**. Originally created as a US Army manual. This book covers identification and location of common edible wild plants and how to prepare them as food. 149 pages, softcover, \$12.95 from Skyhorse Publishing, NY. [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

**The Survivalists Handbook** by Rainer Stahlberg. Equipment lists, food storage plans, and much more. Scenarios are covered on a what to do on day one, day two, day three, etc. plan. Disasters include fire, flood nuclear disaster, epidemic, tornadoes and even volcanoes. 430 pages, softcover, \$14.95 from Skyhorse Publishing, NY. [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

**Living off The Grid** by David Black. Basic information on alternative sources of water, electricity, heat, food and other necessities when the grid goes down. 253 pages, illustrated softcover, \$12.95 from Skyhorse Publishing, NY. [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

**Everyday Survival Kits** by Mark Puhaly & Joel Stevens. Urban “bug out bags”, day hike kits, car kits, cold weather kits, everyday kits and more. 182 pages, softcover, \$17.99 from Living Ready Books, [www.livingreadyonline.com](http://www.livingreadyonline.com)

**Preppers Food Storage** by Julie Languille. A well-organized book on how to set up a survival food storage system. Includes, charts and calculation tables on nutritional needs and shelf-life. 255 pages, softcover, \$12.95 from Ulysses Publications [www.ulyssespublications.com](http://www.ulyssespublications.com)

**Petersons Field Guide to Medicinal Plants and Herbs**, By S. Foster & J. A. Duke. This book covers 530 of the most common medicinal and edible plants in the central And norther United States. Well illustrated in color. 456 pages. Softcover, HMH publishers, at \$21.00

**52 Prepper Projects**, by David Nash. Well described and illustrated projects that you can do with minimal tools and materials that can improve your survival potential. Fun and easy stuff to do. 198 pages, 9 x 6, softcover, \$16.95 from softcover, \$17.95, from Skyhorse Publishing, NY. [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

**100 Deadly Survival Skills** by Clint Emerson. A clearly illustrated manual of Seal and CIA survival tricks and techniques. Lots of improvised methods that could save your life. Only a few are deadly. 256 pages, 8 ½ x 5 ½, softcover, \$18.00 from Simon and Shuster. [www.Simonandshuster.com](http://www.Simonandshuster.com)

**Soldiers of Fortune Guide to Surviving the Apocalypse**, by N. E. MacDougald. Cover a number of survival situations and survival techniques in well-written and illustrated chapters. 193 pages, 9 x 6, softcover, \$14.95 from Skyhorse Publishing, NY. [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

**SAS Complete Survival Manual**, by Barry Davies. Escape and evasion, navigation, shelter, self-defense and much more. Fully illustrated in color. 276 pages, softcover, \$14.95 from Skyhorse Publishing, NY. [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

**Preppers Communications Handbook**: Lifesaving strategies for communicating with family and group members when the phone systems and internet fail. Include use and limitations of satellite phone, GMRS, FRS, CB, VHF etc. 132 pages, softcover, \$15.95 from Ulysses Publications.

**The Pocket Guide to Preppers Supplies**. Lists and evaluates over 200 items that you need to be prepared. Details on storage methods, what to carry, shelving and packs. 156

pages, 4 ½ x 6 ½, softcover \$9.99, from Skyhorse Publishing, NY.  
[www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

**The Preppers Water Survival Guide**, by Daisy Luther. How to gather, treat and store water before and during survival emergencies. 216 pages, softcover, \$14.95 from Ulysses Publications.

### **Outdoor & Wilderness Survival**

**How to Survive Anything, Anywhere**, by Chris McNab a well illustrated readable manual that covers outdoor survival, survival psychology, kits, and some urban survival situations. A very good starter manual. 7 x 9", 320 page, soft-cover, \$14.99 from McGraw-Hill publishing

**The Encyclopedia of Survival Techniques:** By Alexander Stilwell. , A nicely illustrated outdoor survival manual covering survival techniques by region. Desert, tropics, polar and mountain survival are well covered. There are sections on natural disasters and first aid as well. 7 x 9", 192 pages, soft-cover, \$19.95 from The Lyon Press.

**SAS Survival Guide:** (colleens Gem Edition): This 383 page miniature 3" x 4" paperback book is loaded with information on food, water, shelter, navigation, first aid, shelter construction and other survival skills. A must for your pack. \$8.00 from Harper Collins Publishing.

**Wilderness Survival:** By Gregory Davenport. A well illustrated manual on basic outdoor survival techniques, 5 ½ x 8", 129 pages, soft-cover, \$19.95 from Stackpole books, [www.stackpolebooks.com](http://www.stackpolebooks.com).

**Surviving Cold Weather:** By Gregory Davenport. Lots of photos and drawings to illustrate the hazards and techniques of cold weather. 5 ½ x 8", 240 pages, soft-cover, \$14.95 from Stackpole books, [www.stackpolebooks.com](http://www.stackpolebooks.com).

**Outdoor Life Hunting and Gathering Survival Manual.** By Weldon Adams. Hands-on methods for gathering edible plants, hunting, fishing and using what you find, kill and catch. Well illustrated in color. \$29.95, softcover from from Outdoor Life Publications

**The Complete Survival Shelters Handbook**, by Anthonio Akkermans. Step-by[step instructions to building shelters for every climate and location with what is available. 146 pages, softcover, 15.95 from Ulysses publications.

### **Urban Survival & Self Protection**

**The Urban Survival Handbook:** By John Wiseman, A good survival and safety manual for anyone living in town. The book covers a lot of basic home and street safety information as well as emergency plans and disaster survival. There are some well illustrated self-defense techniques and lots of information on crime prevention. 9 x 9", 316 page, soft-cover, \$20.00, from Harper Collins publishers.

**Ragnar's Urban Survival:** A good manual for those who would stay in an urban area under desperate circumstances. Covers ways to forage, find water, avoid troops and gangs and much more. 5 1/5 x 8" 200 pages, soft-cover, \$20.00 from Paladin Press, 7077 Winchester Circle, Boulder, CO., 80305, USA, 1-800-392-2400, [www.paladin.press.com](http://www.paladin.press.com)

**How to be Safe**, by Ira L Chapman. Written by the founder of Guardsmark LLC, one of the nation's largest private security firms, this book focusses on crime prevention and travel safety on the personal and business level. Well written and easy to use. 359 pages, hardcover, \$25.95 from Readers Digest Association Inc.

### **Military Manuals**

**FM 21-76 "Survival" or "Survival Evasion and Escape"**. Mine are from 1957 and 1969. but newer versions and reprints are available. These books cover outdoor survival under a wide variety of conditions such as arctic, swamp, jungle, desert and ocean. Lots of information on water sources, edible plants, trapping and shelters. I have seen reprints of this manual at Borders and at gun shows.

**The U. S. Armed Forces Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Survival Manual:** By Dick Couch, Capt USNR retired. Not an official government printed manual, but a good overview manual on NBC survival. 8 x 5 ½, 242 pages, soft-cover, \$14.95 from

**SAS and Elite Forces Preparing to Survive** by Chris McNab. A well-illustrated handbook that combines military and civilian survival techniques for everything from floods and tornadoes to assaults and power outages. 319 pages, softcover, 19.95 from Lyons Press. [www.lyonspress.com](http://www.lyonspress.com)

**US Airforce Survival Handbook.** A military manual covering a wide range of outdoor and military survival skills including shelter building, navigation, trapping, mountaineering, edible plants and much more. 575 pages, 8 ½ x 11, softcover, \$17.95, from Skyhorse Publishing, NY. [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

### **General Preparedness & Self-Reliance**

**Dare to Prepare**, by Holly Drennan, Deyo. A big 8 x 11", 624 page, soft-cover, fully indexed, illustrated, home preparedness manual, including scores of data tables on food requirements, food storage, fuel needs, etc. etc. A must have. Published by: Dayo Enterprises LLC, P.O. Box 7711, Pueblo West, Colorado, USA, 81007, \$42.98 + P&H, [www.daretoprepare.com](http://www.daretoprepare.com)

**Back to Basics**, edited by Abigail R. Gehring. An extremely well illustrated and narrated how-to guide to twenty six basic self-reliance skills. Subjects include keeping bees, milking cows, planting gardens, canning, pickling, preserving, using natural energy (wind, water, sun) and much more. The perfect book for anyone trying to become more self-sufficient. Back to Basics, 354 pages, hardcover, \$24.95 from Skyhorse Publishing, NY. [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com).

**How to Survive Anywhere**, By Christopher Nyerges, A well illustrated and readable book that combines a variety of outdoor and home survival skills and projects. Some things you can get started on with little cost. 259 pages, 5 ½ x 8' soft-cover, \$19.95 from Stackpole books, [www.stackpolebooks.com](http://www.stackpolebooks.com).

**SAS and Elite Forces Guide to Preparing to Survive:** 318 pages, 5 x 7, soft-cover, from Lyons Press, [www.LyonsPress.com](http://www.LyonsPress.com). A very well organized and illustrated handbook covering most common emergencies and disasters in urban and wilderness environments.

**Survivalist Magazine:** , A very well balanced mix of practical survival and self-reliance articles in each issue Published semimonthly by CDI Publications, P.O. Box 9, Boynton Beach FL. 33425, [www.survivalist.com](http://www.survivalist.com), 866.437.6570. or on magazine racks at \$7.95 per issue

**Bugout Magazine:** A solid, semimonthly publication with lots of well written and illustrated articles as well as product reviews. A better information-to-advertisement ratio than most. \$24.00 for subscription from <http://www.bugoutmag.com/order-bugout-mag/>

**Backwoods Home Magazine:** Most of the “survival” magazines of the 80s have been replaced by the internet, but Backwoods Home still puts survival and self-reliance information on paper. Lots of well illustrated stuff on alternate energy, food, water, and backwoods living. There are regular articles by shooting expert Massad Ayoob. Being produced in a small town in the northwest, there is little that relates to urban survival. Six issues per year for \$24.95 from Backwoods Home, P.O. Box 712 , Gold Beach, OR 97444. [www.backwoodshome.com](http://www.backwoodshome.com). They also offer a complete list of back issue anthologies for \$21.95 each.

**Survivors Edge Magazine:** Some good articles, but also a lot of advertising published quarterly by Harris Publications. Via Harris Tactical Group, [www.harristacticalstore.com](http://www.harristacticalstore.com) On magazine racks at \$9.95 per issue

**American Survival Guide Magazine:** Not the original American Survival Guide from the 1970s but it has some good information mixed with a great many advertisements. Published monthly from Engaged Media Inc. [subscriptions@engagedmedia.com](mailto:subscriptions@engagedmedia.com) at \$32.95 per year or on magazine racks at \$8.00 per issue

**Living off the Land in the City and Country:** The title says it all. While not covering everything, it does have a lot of information on self-reliance that can be used in most environments. 5 ½ x 8”, 270 pages, soft-cover, from Paladin Press, 7077 Winchester Circle, Boulder, CO., 80305, USA, 1-800-392-2400, [www.paladin.press.com](http://www.paladin.press.com)

**Wilderness Living:** By Gregory Davenport. Basic information for those contemplating retreating to the backcountry. 5 ½ x 8”, 240 pages, soft-cover, \$18.95 from Stackpole books, [www.stackpolebooks.com](http://www.stackpolebooks.com).

## Survival Combat

**Combat Leaders Field Guide:** A compact combination survival manual and combat guide. Covers navigation, tactics, field fortification, weapons, first aid and more. 4 x 6", 268 pages, soft-cover, \$7.95 from Stackpolebooks, P. O. Box 1831 Harrisburg, PA 7105.

**The Ultimate Guide to US Army Combat Skills and Techniques:** Reprinted US army training manual covers tactics, weapons, self-defense, field craft, camouflage, fortification and movement. 950 pages, 8 ½ x 11, soft-cover NY, Skyhorse Publishing, NY.  
[www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

### **First Aid & Emergency Medicine**

Most "survival" books contain basic first aid so I have not included basic first aid books here.

**US Army, Special Forces Medical Handbook:** By Glen K. Craig. Diagnostic and treatment instructions for a wide variety of medical emergencies. Includes primitive medicine, veterinary medicine and obstetrics. 4 ¼ x 7", 608 pages, soft-cover, \$30.00 from 7077 Winchester Circle, Boulder, CO., 80305, USA, 1-800-392-2400,  
[www.paladin.press.com](http://www.paladin.press.com)

**Ditch Medicine:** By Hugh L. Coffee, Well beyond "first aid".. Illustrated procedures for amputations, intubations, suturing, and deep wound management. 5 ½ x 8", 213 pages, soft-cover, \$24.95 from Paladin Press. 7077 Winchester Circle, Boulder, CO., 80305, USA, 1-800-392-2400, [www.paladin.press.com](http://www.paladin.press.com)

**Tactical Combat Care and Wound Management:** Published by the US Department of Defense. This is a well-illustrated medical care manual focused on combat field trauma such as burns, soft tissue injuries, fractures, penetrations and evulsions. 175-pages, soft cover. \$16.99 from Skyhorse Publishing, NY. [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

**Emergency War Surgery:** A revision of a NATO handbook this volume covers advanced techniques for care of wounds, burns, chemical, and blast injuries and much more. 5 ½ x 8", 391 page, soft-cover, from Desert Publications, Cornville, AZ 86325.  
[www.desertpublications.net](http://www.desertpublications.net)

**Special Operations Forces Medical Handbook:** A revision of a Defense Dept. Handbook. Extensive and detailed information on medication dosages, dental procedures, child delivery, veterinary medicine and much more 5 ½ x 8", 500 page, soft-cover, from Skyhorse Publishing, NY. [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

**Do It Yourself Medicine:** By Ragnar Benson. Ways to find and use various antibiotics, and anesthetics without prescriptions. Necessary information as the medical care system collapses. 5 ½ x 8", 126 pages, soft-cover, \$20.00, from 7077 Winchester Circle, Boulder, CO., 80305, USA, 1-800-392-2400, [www.paladin.press.com](http://www.paladin.press.com)

**Merck Manual of Medical Information:**, Thoroughly indexed to cover virtually all medical conditions and injuries, by symptom. Covers all medications and techniques. This is the

one your doctor uses! 1767 pages, 4 x 7 (home edition) from Pocket books, New York, NY

### **Survival Story Novels (Fiction & Non-fiction)**

Note: I am not including any “survival novels” that are just for recreation. These books have heavy content of practical information and/or tactical lessons.

**Defiance**, By Nechama Tec, This is the story of how Jews who fled from cities under Nazi occupation in Poland during World War Two were able to escape, evade, resist and survive for years in the Nalibocka Forest. They established a fully functional survival camp with shops, infirmaries, school and of course a military force in “defiance” of all attempts to exterminate them. Stuff other books only guess about. 369 pages, 8 x 5' soft-cover , \$15.00 from Oxford Press.

**Patriots**, By James Wesley Rawles, A multifaceted novel of people and families escaping and surviving a general collapse of civilization. Scenarios include long foot-marches through hostile country, establishment and defense of a well stocked survival retreat and reestablishment of community security and self-reliance. The book is heavy on philosophy and detailed data on how to do things and what to have. A highly readable story and a manual combined. 400 pages, 8 1/2 x 6” soft-cover, \$14.95 from Publisher Group West.

### **Survival Psychology**

**Deep Survival**, by Laurence Gonzales. This book uses true stories of endurance and survival to illustrate how people think under stress and what kinds of mental techniques and philosophies work. Highly readable and highly educational. 299 pages, hard cover, \$25.95 , published by W.W. Nortons & Company of New York

**Surviving Survival** by Laurence Gonzales. The author follows up the cases from his Deep Survival book by exploring the effects of disaster on the individual psyche months and years later. Although people did survive the original disaster or attack they often suffered disastrous mental debilitation. Why does some people shrug off horrible events while others are traumatized to the point of suicide? 242 pages, hard cover, \$15.95 , published by W.W. Nortons & Company of New York

**The Survivors Club** by Ben Sherwood. The secrets and science of survival that could save your life. An in depth study of how people react to emergencies and disaster situations. Details the mental attitudes and propensities of those who are most likely to survive. The book includes a link to an on-line test that analyzes your survival strengths and weakness. 383 pages, hardcover, \$24.99 from Penguin Books.

**Collapse**: By Jared Diamond. A Pulitzer Prize winning author and professor of geography uses historic examples and scientific data to predict the inevitable and already in progress collapse of civilization as we know it. This is THE most compelling argument for survival preparedness. 5 ½ x 8”, 573 pages, softcover, \$17.00 from Penguin Books.

**The Unthinkable: By Amanda Ripley.** An in depth analysis of how people respond to disasters. The author takes us through the experiences of people who have survived a variety of real disasters to illustrate how the mind goes through three stages before acting to survive. The book explores why some people freeze and die while others act and live. The Unthinkable, Who Survives When Disaster Strikes and Why, By: Armanda Ripley, 265 pages, hardcover, Crown Publishing, \$24.95, ISBN 978-0-307-35289-7

**The Gray Rhino** by Michele Wucker. Not a traditional “survival” book, but very relevant to understanding how and why we fail to recognize and react to impending disasters. The book explores why the individual, society and governments are blinded to the obvious (charging rhino’s) multiple and unavoidable catastrophes of the future. It also explains the unpopularity and frustration of preparedness advocates. 252 pages, hardcover, \$27.99, St. Martin’s Press, NY.

**Survivors:** By John B. Letterman, 23 of the most brutal tales of true survival known to man. Starting with the epic journey of Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca who was stranded in Florida in 1528 and managed to reach Spanish colonies in Texas in 1536 moving through shipwrecks, arctic expeditions, POW escapes to modern air crashes. 460 pages, hardcover, \$26.00 from Simon & Schuster

**The SAS Mental Endurance Handbook:** By Chris McNab, Based on various British Army methods for staying focused and handling stress. Illustrated tests and examples. A good section on surviving prison camp. 7 x 9”, 190 page soft-cover, \$19.95 from The Lyons Press, Gilford, CT , [www.lyonspress.com](http://www.lyonspress.com).

**Information provided by:**  
**Live Free, P. O. Box 3295, Munster, IN 46321, USA.**  
[www.AmericanSurvivor.org](http://www.AmericanSurvivor.org), E-mail [lfinow@aol.com](mailto:lfinow@aol.com)