

Heading: DON'T TELL ON YOURSELF

Monday, October 29th 2013. Hurricane Sandy made Its' way up the North East coast of New Jersey, and wreaked havoc on the area bringing intense winds, light rain and storm surges.

Here in East Orange NJ, a majority of the area was crippled after strong sustained winds in excess of 80 mph toppled trees and clipped power lines. Over the next two weeks Power companies did (questionably) the best they could have done, in the wake of one of the most devastating storms to hit this part of the country. Their priority was "to get the most amount of clustered customers back on the grid as possible first" this was fine if you were in a high rise building with no less than 15-20 tenants, but if you we're in a single family home, in a suburban neighborhood like mine your wait was no less than five days. Our street had to wait eleven days before the power was restored.

Two days after the storm, the gas shortage began. If you had a gas container, you had the equivalent of a four wheel drive SUV in a blizzard. Not only did I have more than one gas container, I have a Briggs and Stratton 4hp Generator that managed to give us 5 hours of power for the first four days after the storm.

By day three, with roughly 200 or more homes in a half mile radius around us, I couldn't help but noticed only two or three generators (mine included) roaring away in the eerie calm of a neighborhood without power. As I sat in the house watching up to the minute coverage of the latest news on my television, I couldn't help but be extremely nervous that I might have to take the safety off of my "Registered Peace Keeper"..... Thankfully, the safety stayed on.

What have I learned from this situation?

When you have what other people need or want in a crisis, you now have the biggest target on your back. So not IF, but WHEN you decide to purchase your Generator, keep this fact in mind. Your home just might be the only home in your neighborhood with power, chances are -if you have power, you might have food and water. And there are people who will NEVER take precautions for the "what if" scenario they will be the first to pay you a visit once the shit hit's the fan... DON'T TELL ON YOURSELF!!

***Invest in a Generator with at least 1000 watts, and runs as "quiet as possible".**

***Consider sealing all windows that allow light to emit from a Television or light fixture.**

***Do not broadcast your "extensive" Emergency Supply Stockpile.**

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