Governments asking people to prep for emergencies

26th November 2026



European governments are asking people to prepare for emergencies by keeping enough food and water to survive for 72 hours. The UK, France, Ireland, and the Netherlands have provided information to encourage people to prepare for possible disasters. The UK's campaign has a simple name. It is called "Be Ready". It advises families to store bottled water, canned food, a wind-up radio, and sleeping bags. The advice is changing people's shopping habits. Sales of bottled water in the UK have risen by 67 per cent, while sales of canned food have increased by 37 per cent. A London shop owner said: "There is an uplift, 100 per cent." He said he is selling a lot of torches and camping cookers.

Governments are worried that events could stop people from getting things they need. These events include extreme weather, like heatwaves, storms, and wildfires. In addition, cyberattacks could affect supermarkets, electricity networks, and other important services. Recently, cyberattacks on European supermarkets caused problems with refrigerators and freezers. Stores had to throw away large amounts of frozen and chilled food. Other events, such as computer system failures, could also stop people using the internet or accessing cash. The UK government said people should take "simple steps" to be ready. Governments believe preparing will help families stay safer in emergencies.

Sources: gov.uk / *cbsnews.com* / *theguardian.com*

Writing

We all need to prepare for future emergencies. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Europe / governments / emergencies / food / water / survival / disasters / torches / extreme weather / heatwaves / cyberattacks / supermarkets / freezers / stay safer

True / False

1) Governments in Europe told people to keep a week's supply of food. T / F
2) The UK has a prepping campaign called "Be ready". T / F
3) Governments want people to buy a radio that you wind up. T / F
4) A London store has sold a lot of electric cookers. T / F
5) Governments are worried about events like storms and wildfires. T / F
6) A recent cyberattack targeted freezers in ice cream shops. T / F
7) The article says we may not be able to get cash in a disaster. T / F
8) The UK said we needed to take simple steps to stay safe. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**prepare**	a.	risen
2.	**habits**	b.	dangerous
3.	**store**	c.	think
4.	**increased**	d.	flashlights
5.	**torches**	e.	patterns
6.	**stop**	f.	difficulties
7.	**extreme**	g.	get ready
8.	**problems**	h.	easy
9.	**simple**	i.	keep
10.	**believe**	j.	prevent

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think of preparing for emergencies?
b) Have you ever had an emergency?
c) How good are you in an emergency?
d) What things do you need to survive for a week?
e) Why should people get a wind-up radio?
f) What survival skills do you have?
g) Should all children be taught survival skills?
h) What do you think of preppers?

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Phrase Match

1. food and water to
2. encourage people to prepare
3. The advice is changing people's
4. sales of canned food have
5. He said he is selling a
6. stop people from getting things
7. extreme
8. cyberattacks could
9. throw away large amounts of frozen
10. accessing

a. affect supermarkets
b. lot of torches
c. cash
d. they need
e. shopping habits
f. survive for 72 hours
g. and chilled food
h. increased by 37%
i. weather
j. for possible disasters

Discussion – Student B

a) How worried are you about extreme weather?
b) How worried are you about cyberattacks?
c) What would you do if there was no more food in the supermarkets?
d) How important is having cash in an emergency?
e) What disasters are you most worried about?
f) What will the world be like in ten years?
g) What questions would you like to ask a prepper?
h) How worried are you about extreme weather?

Spelling

1. enough food and water to eusrviv
2. prepare for possible desrstasi
3. people's shopping asihbt
4. otldtbe water
5. sales of dannce food
6. he is selling a lot of oethrsc
7. eretmxe weather
8. tbaktasrecyc could affect supermarkets
9. cyciltetrei networks
10. refrigerators and ezefersr
11. nozfer and chilled
12. computer system uleisfar

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. a	5. d
6. j	7. b	8. f	9. h	10. c

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	For how long do governments want people to prepare in an emergency?
2.	What have governments provided to encourage people to prepare?
3.	What's the name of the UK's preparedness campaign?
4.	What has increased by 67 per cent?
5.	What is a London shop owner selling lots of besides torches?
6.	What extreme events are governments worried about?
7.	What did cyberattacks recently hit?
8.	What kind of food did supermarkets have to throw away?
9.	What might people not be able to access besides the internet?
10.	What kinds of stops did the UK say people should take?

Speaking – Be Ready

Rank these with your partner. Put the things you most need to "be ready" at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Bottled water
- Wind-up radio
- Chocolate
- Smartphone
- Sleeping bag
- Canned food
- Matches
- Torch

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

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