

## Low-Tech vs. High-Tech Gear!

Most Disaster Guy Tips are not High-Tech. Yes, there are LEDs in hats, electric bicycles, and inverter-type generators. But most Tips are Low-Tech.

So, what's the difference? Low-Tech is something you can make yourself, or if it breaks, you can repair it yourself or get it repaired locally in any small town. **The simpler it is, the less there is to go wrong!**

High-Tech is something complicated enough that you probably don't know how it works in detail, would have to send it somewhere else for repair, and if it broke down in an emergency, you'd be stuck.

- High-Tech is a pellet stove with an electrical motor that pops in pellets until the power goes off and the stove goes out. Low-Tech is a stove that will burn wood, twigs, etc., that you put into the stove by hand.
- High-Tech is a riding mower with battery/electric starter. Low-Tech is a power mower with a recoil starter. Real Low-Tech is a push mower.
- High-Tech is a gas stove with an electrical igniter requiring 110-volt AC. Low-Tech is a gas stove with a gas pilot light that stays on, 24/7. Real Low-Tech is a gas stove you light yourself.
- High-Tech is an electronic calculator. Low-Tech is a slide rule. Real Low-Tech is an abacus. Real, Real Low-Tech is pencil and paper.
- Real, Real High Tech is an iPhone. Real High-Tech is a cell phone. High-Tech is a portable phone that requires 110-volt AC from an electrical outlet and goes dead when the power goes off. Low-Tech is a landline telephone that plugs into the wall and uses telephone company power.

But it's a High-Tech society. Everyone has iPhones, Androids, iPads, Kindles, Nooks, and computerized devices. If the power grid goes down, these and the apps on them will be useless. If their users don't know how to do the job without the High-Tech equipment, their skills are useless because their equipment won't work!

I had a math teacher who made us do every problem in our heads! I hated her. By the time I finished her class, I could extract cube roots in my head. Low-Tech? or No-Tech? But there's a place for High-Tech, too. My son wanted to use an electronic calculator for his math. I had him do the math by pencil and paper and check it with the calculator. He learned both methods.

You may need to find some antiquated gear if you want to go Low-Tech. Get it! Then use it AND the High-Tech stuff, until the power grid goes down. If you want coffee, make a place in life for both percolators AND electric coffee makers.