

## PREPARING FOR THE UNSEEN

Preparing for a potential Carrington Event, or a massive solar flare striking Earth, requires thoughtful consideration and practical steps. Unlike scenarios such as a zombie apocalypse or nuclear war, individual readiness for this cosmic event is indeed achievable. While the event itself won't pose direct harm to individuals, its impact could disrupt power and communication systems for days, possibly even stretching to weeks or a month.

One of the key strategies is safeguarding your household electrical system against power surges triggered by solar flares. Although you can't prevent transformers from succumbing to magnetic storms, you can fortify your home's electrical setup. Installing both whole-house surge protectors and power-strip surge protectors is crucial. This precaution isn't just for extreme events like global magnetic catastrophes but also guards against everyday power surges.

Additionally, assembling a basic disaster survival kit is paramount. This kit serves as a pragmatic preparation not solely for a solar flare but for any unexpected power loss caused by natural disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes, or even local accidents. It's challenging to predict the duration of a power outage resulting from a magnetic storm, so the extent of preparation remains a personal choice. Government-recommended guidelines for survival kits provide a sensible starting point.

It's prudent to keep some cash readily available too. In the event of international communication system failures, ATMs may become inaccessible. Having hard currency could be invaluable, particularly during prolonged outages.

While some disaster preppers might find the government's recommendations insufficient, maintaining an optimistic outlook is valid. Envisioning a massive worldwide power outage causing chaos might be extreme. A more plausible scenario could involve short-term disruptions, although the true aftermath remains uncertain.

Unlike sudden disasters like earthquakes or nuclear attacks, a magnetic storm usually comes with advance notice. Historical events like the 1859 Carrington Event were detected approximately 19 hours before impacting Earth. This warning allows for at least half a day to brace for the impending disruption. Even for those who hadn't prepared in advance, there's still time to gather essentials like water, non-perishable food items from grocery stores, and mentally ready oneself for a potential week without modern conveniences.

Charging all available batteries, ensuring family communication, and confirming everyone's preparedness are critical steps. As systems might fail during the event, staying put rather than traveling amid the chaos is advisable.

The final readiness step involves unplugging electrical devices and awaiting the celestial spectacle. Contrary to disaster movie tropes, widespread panic or chaos might not ensue immediately upon the announcement of the impending disaster. Given

how unexpected events sometimes unfold, the public's response may remain subdued until the skies illuminate unexpectedly, reminiscent of noon, and societal platforms like Facebook & YouTube experience disruptions.