THE COMPLETE VEHICLE OPS HANDBOOK

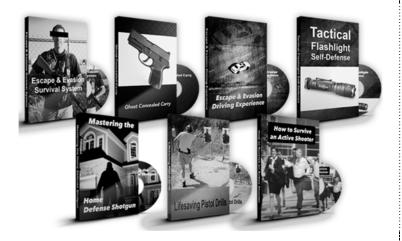
The List of Gear You Need When the Unthinkable Hits the Fan



By New York Times Bestselling Author JASON HANSON

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Introduction

Welcome to the Complete Vehicle Ops Handbook.

The fact is, throughout the many jobs I've had in my life, I've had to rely on the gear in my vehicle to get me out of a jam or two.

So, I highly recommend you don't wait until it's too late to assemble the gear you should have in your own vehicle.

I've tried to make this book as easy as possible for you to digest, so that you can quickly put together your own gear. This book includes what I use with the make, model, pictures, etc., of the different types of gear.

Also, it doesn't matter what type of vehicle you own. Admittedly, I own a lot of vehicles from Dodge Ram pickups to my Jeep Wrangler seen in the following pictures.

Just make sure your vehicle is stocked with the right gear and that your family doesn't end up using it or taking it out, without you knowing, so that you can re-stock it. (Yep, I've got a wife and 5 kids.)

So, without further ado, let's jump right into the gear you should consider having in your vehicle to better protect yourself and family...





Power

Life is a lot easier when you have power. Whether you're trying to charge a cell phone or trying to charge some batteries for your flashlight, you always want multiple ways to charge your gear.

This is why my vehicle survival kit gives me plenty of options to charge my important devices. You'll notice lots of redundancy, so I have backups if anything goes wrong. (I can't imagine that ever happening, right?)

The first power item is an inverter. An inverter changes direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) so you can charge devices like cell phones, laptops and tablets. The inverter in the picture on the next page is a 150 W inverter that plugs directly into my cigarette lighter.

This inverter has a traditional plug and it also has two USB ports for me to plug items into. It's also very small so it doesn't take up much space. (If your wife's version of camping includes a giant air mattress, you can plug the pump into the inverter and inflate the mattress in no time.)



I also have a second inverter in my kit. The second one is a Stanley FatMax 140 W inverter. This also plugs directly into the cigarette lighter and it has two places to put a traditional plug. The one I own is an older model and does not have any USB ports to plug items into. But, the newer versions of this inverter does include USB ports.



Another power item I have in my vehicle is a Rugged Geek Jump Starter. Having some type of jump starter in your vehicle survival kit is a no brainer. You and I both know that if you get a dead battery, there isn't always going to be someone around. Plus, it saves you from having to wait a long time for someone to come and give you a jump start.

The one I use can be charged up from a wall outlet or a car cigarette lighter. In addition to jump starting your car, it also acts as a power bank so you can charge your devices from the multiple USB ports. And, it has a flashlight that's pretty bright too.

The company recommends that you charge it up every three months, but the battery on this thing seems to last forever and it doesn't drain quickly.

I really like this item because of its versatility and how I can not only jump my car, but also, power a bunch of devices. Below are some pictures of the one I use and you can see in the second picture I am charging up this device.





I love flashlights and have lots of rechargeable batteries. If I were you, I'd get the Panasonic Eneloop batteries as those are some of the best rechargeable batteries on the market.

Since I have so many flashlights in my vehicle survival kit that use batteries, I obviously want to have a battery charger.

The charger I use is a universal charger that plugs into my cigarette lighter. It has spots for four different batteries and it can charge all kinds of batteries from 18650 to AA to AAA and so on. It also has an LCD display so I can

see how much power the battery has and it tells me when it's 100% charged.

Here are a couple of pictures of the battery charger I use. You obviously don't have to get the same one, but if you've got rechargeable batteries as part of your kit, make sure you have a way to charge them.





Just in case I have the need to plug in a bunch of items into my cigarette lighter at once, I have a four-way socket for convenience, as you can see in the next picture.



In my kit, I also have a small power bank. This is to charge my phone, but also for a light source. When you get to the Light section of this book, you'll see a very neat way I use this power bank as a flashlight.



Lastly, I have a small, foldable solar panel in my kit. This solar panel is not going to charge any huge devices, but it will have no problem with smaller items such as your cell phone.

I also have several carabineers attached to my solar panel (and have extras in my car) so I can hang the panel from a tree, from the car, from a backpack, etc.





That's enough about power items. You can obviously include more than this list and pick and choose what works best for you. Now, let's move onto water.

Water

We've all heard a million times about the importance of water and how you can't go three days without water, depending on the circumstances. So, I'm going to show you the water items I have in my vehicle survival kit, this is one area where you definitely don't want to skimp.

Let's start with the water itself. You can keep things easy and just go to Costco or Walmart and buy a case of bottled water and throw it in the back of your car. If you do this, just make sure that your family members don't raid this water. (Ask me how I know.)

Another option I like are the 7-gallon Aquatainers. However, these do take up a lot of space and they're heavy. I know some folks who just store these in their homes and plan to grab them and throw them in the car, if needed. (I do both.)

Here are some pictures of Aquatainer by itself and a bunch of them together for home storage.





Another option to store water is the stackable water bricks. The benefit of the

water bricks is that they come in a 3.5-gallon size. This makes them easier to carry and they don't take up as much space if you wanted to put just one of them in your car.

Once you have water in your car, you definitely need a few other water-related items.

Most importantly, you'll need a way to filter water if you run out and have to get water from a lake or stream in an emergency.

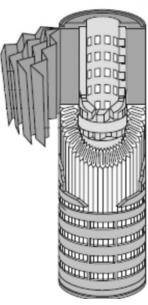
The first way is my favorite, and is my go-to filter in a crisis. It's small, lightweight, and takes up very little space in your vehicle. It's the SurvFilter.



The way the SurvFilter works is that it uses nanotechnology and is positively charged with ions. When water flows through the SurvFilter, there's an ionic exchange that captures the viruses and bacteria so you get clean drinking water. (Imagine the filter is a magnet that extracts all of the bad stuff.)

To give you an idea of just how thorough the SurvFilter is...

When water passes through the filter it has to make its way through approximately 400 layers of fibers and pores. (Below is a simple graphic that shows the hundreds of layers of ion-charged paper the water flows through.)



What's more, the filter is infused with silver, which means it eliminates bacteria (and everything else) going through it so grit doesn't build up and clog the filter.

The bottom line, this filter has been tested and proven to remove 99.9999% of contaminants. If for some reason, I could only have one water filter, the SurvFilter would be it.

If you want to see some torture test videos of the SurvFilter and get one for yourself, visit www.SurvFilter.com.

Since filtering water is so critical, I always have multiple options, just in case. The second way to filter water was developed by the Israelis. It's a water purification tablet and is called: Taharmayim Israeli Water Purification Tablets.

According to the company, these tablets have been used for over 20 years by the Israeli Defense Forces. Each tablet will purify 1 liter of water, so you'll need four tablets to purify a gallon of water.

Once you drop the tablets in the water, you should wait about 30 minutes and then you can start drinking. These tablets kill all the usual nasty bacteria found in water that can

make us sick. You can buy these in boxes of 50 and they won't take up hardly any space in your vehicle.





If you have to seek out emergency water from a lake or stream, life will be much easier if you have a way to carry it.

You can use a bucket, but that takes up a good amount of space in a vehicle. What I use is a foldable bag to carry water. (The official name is a "foldable camping washbowl.")

The one I use can carry up to four gallons of water and it folds up into a tiny package, as you can see in the pictures on the following page.

Having one of these is a no-brainer and if you're involved in the Boy Scouts, you might end up using this to wash a lot of dishes.





In addition to having a foldable bucket, I also have several collapsible travel cups in my vehicle. They collapse down to take up almost no space and it's always a good idea to have a few cups laying around.

The picture below shows the cups when they're fully extended. They're nothing fancy, but they do what they're supposed to do.



And here's how the cups look when they're collapsed...



For water carrying purposes, I also have a Klean Canteen in my vehicle. This is a stainless-steel water bottle that you can get in a bunch of different sizes. I have the 40-ounce size.

The benefit of a stainless-steel water bottle is that I can boil water in it, if I needed to. So, definitely have some type of stainless-steel water bottle in your vehicle kit.



To wrap things up in this water section, here's one more water-related item. Admittedly, this is more out of left-field and is food for thought for most people.

If you needed to rinse yourself off or wash out a wound in an emergency, you use a garden sprayer which you can get at Home Depot. You could also use this as a shower.

Obviously, just make sure you only use this for water and don't put any weed killer in it.



You now have a good idea of the water items to have in your vehicle survival kit, so let's move to the food items...

Food, Fire and Cooking

I've gone several days without eating and can tell you, it's not fun. So, while you can survive a lot more time without food than water, you obviously still want food to eat and ways to cook it.

To keep things easy for you, I definitely recommend the emergency ration food bars for your vehicle. There are two types of food bars that I use.

First, is the Datrex Emergency Survival 2400 Calorie Food Ration Bar.



These bars are U.S. Coast Guard approved and have a 5-year shelf life. Surprisingly, these bars aren't too bad and taste like a cookie.

Next, is the ERbar, which is another food bar that is very similar to the Datrex bars. The ERbar is also Coast Guard approved and has a 5-year shelf life.

Both of these bars don't take up a ton of space and don't require any maintenance, which is why I like them.





Those food bars are clearly for extreme survival. But, what if you have time to empty some food from your fridge into a cooler before you have to evacuate your house?

Well, here are three options for keeping your food cool for several days...

First, is the ARB fridge/freezer. These things are not cheap, but they're what true offroaders swear by. You can get this in varying sizes from 37-quarts to 82-quarts, so this is going to take up a decent amount of space in your vehicle.

The ARB plugs directly into your cigarette lighter and can also plug into a regular wall outlet. This thing will definitely keep your food as cold as you wish.



Similar to the ARB, is a Dometic cooler, which is also pricey. It can be used as a refrigerator or as a freezer.



This cooler works great for keeping perishable items such as yogurt, hot dogs, cheese and other items cool and convenient.

Like the ARB, it plugs into your cigarette lighter and can also plug into a regular wall outlet.

The last cooling option I want to cover are the rotomolded coolers that were made popular by the Yeti company. Even though these coolers are expensive, they're a lot less money than the Dometic and the ARB.

These coolers can keep ice frozen for a week and are incredibly well insulated. The cooler I use is the Cabela's Polar Cap Equalizer and that's what you see in the pictures.





Of course, you could just go spend \$20 on a cooler from Walmart. But, it certainly won't keep things cold for several days in a row.

So, if you do happen to get a quality cooler and throw some food in it, how do you cook it? Here are some of my favorite ways.

First are propane stoves. I really like the Coleman Single Burner propane stove since it doesn't take up much space in your vehicle and does a great job of cooking. I also have a Stansport 2-Burner propane stove. But, the Stansport is bigger and is not in the car all the time. This is one of those items I have stored in my house that I'll grab in an emergency.





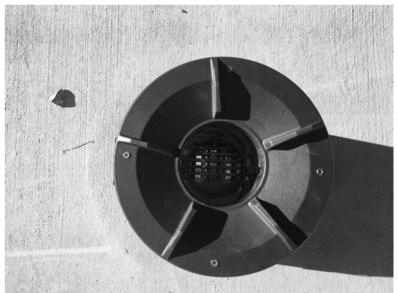
You can also use butane stoves if you want another backup fuel source. The small portable butane stove in the following picture does a solid job of cooking meals. They're

inexpensive to buy online and are great for a car stove.



The SilverFire rocket stove in the next picture is like my Stansport stove. It's bigger and is not in my car all of the time. But, it's a great stove that uses biomass, which means I can throw wood, leaves, whatever I can find on the ground that will burn.





I definitely think it's important that you have multiple stoves that require different

fuels, so you're not dependent on just one fuel source to cook your food or to boil water.

As far as being able to start a fire for cooking or boiling water, you obviously want multiple ways to do this. In my vehicle, I have windproof and waterproof matches. I have a Bic lighter that you can buy at a gas station.

I also have Swedish FireSteel to help start a fire. This is what the Swedish military uses. This device can produce a spark over 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit. It can be used in any type of weather and at any altitude.



Swedish FireSteel is essentially a better version of the flint and steel that many of us used in Boy Scouts. You use FireSteel to light things such as dry grass, paper and dryer lint.

FireSteel comes in several different versions and you can get one that lasts for 3,000 strikes, one that lasts for 12,000 strikes, or there's even one that comes with a built-in emergency whistle.

To help start a fire, I have dryer lint in my car and paper that I use for note taking, that can be burned, if need be. Don't forget, in your glovebox, you probably have McDonald's napkins, car registration and proof of insurance that can be used to start a fire.

Lastly, make sure you have some way to eat the food you cook. You could make it simple and throw in some paper plates and plastic utensils. (You'll still need a metal cooking pot.) Or you can get a mess kit such as the one in the pictures below.





Shelter

Luckily, if you're in your vehicle, you've already got shelter. And, I don't know about you, but in my college days, I spent a night or two sleeping in my car during a road trip. I have no desire to do that anymore, unless it's an emergency.

But, even though my car provides shelter, I'm still prepared with several other options.

First, is a good bivvy.



If you ever find yourself trapped in your car in a snowstorm or the freezing cold, you'll definitely want to use an emergency bivvy.

One example of this is the Adventure Medical Kits SOL Emergency Bivvy.



This is essentially a sleeping bag that is windproof, waterproof and reflects back 90% of your body heat thanks to a heat-reflective polyethylene material.

Also, don't get the SOL bivvy confused with a typical Mylar emergency blanket. The Mylar blankets cost about a dollar and easily tear. The SOL bivvy costs \$12 and is made out of a material that stretches and doesn't easily get holes in it. In other words, spend the extra money and get the higher quality piece of gear.

In addition to a bivvy, have a good wool blanket or two. These are not cheap, but like the bivvy, it's a smart investment. These wool blankets will keep you warm even if it somehow gets wet. Below is one of my wool blankets.



Other items you can get are obviously, a sleeping bag and a tube tent. But, if you want to go high-end on a tent, I like the Kodiak canvas tents. These take up a lot of space and I don't keep mine in my car. It's in my house and I plan to throw it in my car in an emergency. Thankfully, I've only used this tent for camping and never in a life and death situation.



I also recommend having a tarp and some quality ponchos in your vehicle kit. Ponchos can be used to keep you dry and as emergency shelter. Frogg Toggs makes a good poncho, and the military-type ponchos are really good and don't take up a lot of space. Below is one of my military ponchos folded up.



Light

I love flashlights. I'm definitely a flashlight junkie. In my vehicle kit, I have several different types of light. Don't forget, have extra batteries for each light you have and have a battery charger, which we already discussed in the Power section of this book.

The first light I have in my vehicle is a spotlight. This plugs directly into my cigarette lighter. It's made by Coleman and according to the company, this can shine the length of over four football fields. In the second picture of the spotlight, you'll see a cord next to it. This is an extension cord so I can move around my vehicle with the light.





I also have a headlamp in my vehicle kit. This is definitely a must have. You always want to be able to work with your hands free. The one I use has several different brightness levels. I keep it on low most of the time to conserve battery, since I don't need a superhigh setting.



I have a few small tactical flashlights in my vehicle. Some of these run on AA and some run on AAA. Of course, I have spare batteries for each of these. The AAA flashlight puts out 100 lumens and the AA flashlight puts out 400 lumens, which is plenty of light.



Ever heard of the Drok mini USB LED lights? Remember how I mentioned at the beginning of this book about having a power bank? Besides charging your phone, you can use your power bank as a flashlight thanks to these Drok lights.

These lights are tiny and are dirt cheap. All you do is insert them into any USB port and you will have a bright light for a very long time. In the following pictures, you will see the Drok light by itself and then inserted into my power bank.









Another good light to have is the Streamlight Sidewinder military flashlight used by the Marines. It has a rotating head, can clip on to all sorts of things and has several different settings, including a blue light and red light.





The last thing I have for light in my car is an inflatable solar lantern. There are several companies that make these and the one I have is made by LuminAid.

I've taken this camping and while it's not the world's brightest light, I can tell you that the light lasts for hours and it's a good backup option to have.



Weapons

To say I like guns and knives would be an understatement. But, what red-blooded American man doesn't?

I'm going to show you several of the weapons in my vehicle kit. However, the guns do not stay in my car the whole time since I don't want to take the chance of them getting stolen. I live in Utah and carry concealed daily so I always have a gun on me. But, my AR pistol, that you're about to see, is not permanently left in the car.

First, I'll show you some of the guns I might be carrying concealed daily. It might be a Sig P365 in my front pocket or a Springfield 1911 on my hip. For ammo, I use Speer Gold Dot.





I'm also a huge fan of the AR pistol. If you're not familiar with the AR pistol, it's basically an AR-15, but it's classified as a pistol, so you can have a short barrel without needing a tax stamp for a true short barreled rifle.

An AR pistol uses a brace instead of a traditional rifle stock. The AR pistol that you see below has a 7.5-inch barrel and she's an absolute beauty. (The caliber of my AR pistol is .223.)





I love the AR pistol as a vehicle weapon since it's the perfect trunk gun and doesn't take up a lot of space. It can also easily fit in many bug out bags.

If you want more info on the AR pistol, make sure you get my free AR pistol training called, *AR Pistol Home Defense: How to Use the AR Pistol to Quickly and Easily Defeat a Home Intruder.* You can get this free training at www.freeARpistol.com.

If for some reason I have my guns on me and I need to run into a place where I can't carry a gun, such as a government building, I will use either something made by GunVault or Console Vault to lock them up.

Of course, with your guns, you also want to have ammo. I have one ammo can that has about 400 rounds of 9mm and 400 rounds of .223. I do leave this ammo can in my car permanently.



Before I forget, I have a small gun cleaning kit in my car all the time too. It's nothing fancy, just a pocket-sized gun cleaning kit. And, I have some gun oil.

In addition to guns, I have several different blades. A good friend of mine is EJ Snyder. EJ is a former Army Ranger and he's been on several TV shows such as Naked and Afraid.

EJ created a knife called the "Skullcrusher's Xtreme Blade" and it's made by TOPS Knives. I have one of EJ's knives in my car and you can see it's a huge beast. This is not a knife I carry on me, I just keep it in my car for an emergency.



Another knife that I carry and also keep in my car is the NOC Knife. The NOC Knife has a 4-inch blade and carbon fiber handles that contribute to its weight of only 3.7 ounces. It comes with a custom injection molded sheath, which you can adjust to wear on your belt in several different positions.





To see videos of the NOC Knife slicing through a tire, destroying a piece of beef, and cutting through a piece of bone, visit www.NOCknife.com.

My knives will be able to handle almost any task you throw their way, but because it's a good idea to have multiple blades for survival, I have another weapon in my bag for hacking and chopping.

This weapon is the Kukri. This is a huge blade made famous by Nepal's Gurkha warriors. It's used by Special Forces soldiers and law enforcement around the world. It can hack and chop through all kinds of things and I always have this in my vehicle survival kit.



If you have knives in your car kit, which you should, you definitely want to have a way to sharpen them. This is why my kit contains a leather strop block.

A leather strop block is an easy way to put a sharp edge on your knife. It doesn't require batteries or anything fancy to run. It's about as simple as it gets.

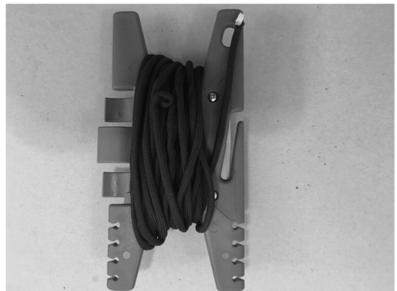


Tools

Paracord is definitely a tool since it has so many uses. Make sure you get the 550 paracord and that it's American made and not the cheap Chinese junk that quickly falls apart.

I keep my paracord wrapped on something called the Spool Tool and you can see it in the following pictures. The Spool tool can hold up to 100 feet of paracord. It's got a place to cut the cord and it even has a holder for a mini Bic lighter.





All vehicle kits should have a saw in them. You never know when you'll need to saw through a large branch or tree. Perhaps it's blocking your way or maybe you need firewood.

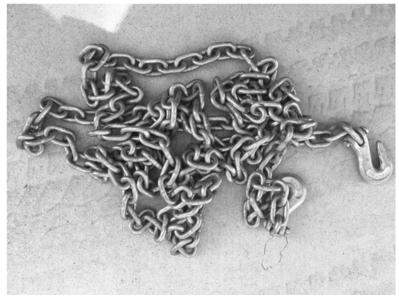
I use the Pocketboy professional folding saw by Silky. It folds up to a small size and even comes with a carrying case you can clip on your belt.





You definitely need a tow rope or a chain for your vehicle. I happen to have both a chain and a tow rope. I've used these multiple times to help free people who've gotten stuck in the mountains.





You also want a jack in your car and a much better one than the car came with. I like either a High-Lift Jack or a 2 Ton Hydraulic Trolley Jack. (You can see the Hi-Lift Jack mounted to the back of my Jeep in the following pictures.)







In addition to a jack, you'll want an air compressor. The one I use is made my Jaco.



A few other tools you'll want to put in your kit are obviously, a set of jumper cables, a collapsible shovel, bolt cutters, lug wrench, tire pressure gauge, Fix-a-Flat, a small tool kit and a gas siphon pump (shown in the following picture.)



First Aid

You can go and buy an off-the-shelf first aid kit at a store or on the Internet. This will have the usual things like band aids and gauze, which certainly come in handy.





However, there are a few other things that I highly recommend you add to your first aid kit. First, is QuikClot. QuikClot is a special clotting sponge that stops bleeding three times faster than blood simply clotting on its own. QuikClot is used by the military and law enforcement and has saved numerous lives around the world.



The next item in my first aid kit is incredibly important and will take care of 73% of the fatalities that occur from severe bleeding. Let me put it another way: 73% of the people who die from severe bleeding could be saved if they had this available to them.

What I'm talking about is a tourniquet and the one I use is the combat application tourniquet. The combat application tourniquet comes in a completely sealed package so that

you know it is brand new, never touched, and sterile.

Imagine a severe laceration on your arm from a car accident or a physical attack. This tourniquet slips on one-handed. You pull it down with one hand, wrap it, and tighten it until the blood stops pumping out. At that point, you want to get to the hospital as soon as you can, if possible.



Another critical item to add to your first aid kit is a chest seal. In my kit, I have the Halo chest seal. Think of the chest seal as a giant sticker. If someone gets shot and has a sucking chest wound, you put the chest seal over the wound and get them proper medical attention as soon as possible.



Don't forget to put some moleskin into your kit. If you have to get out of your car and hike for a while, you want to make sure you don't get unbearable blisters.



Miscellaneous

There are a few more items I recommend you have in your vehicle survival kit. This includes some communications gear, among other things, and I will cover them in this section of the book.

Since I just mentioned comms gear, let's start there. I'm a big fan of the Baofeng radio. This is a two-way radio (a walkie-talkie.) I actually own over two dozen of these radios because we use them when we are teaching our surveillance detection course.

These radios are inexpensive and simple to use so you can communicate with loved ones during a disaster. The exact model of the radio I own is Baofeng UV-5R+.



Of course, you should have your cell phone on you. Personally, I carry two cell phones that use two different cell carriers. You can buy a flip phone and plan at a place like Walmart for pretty cheap these days. To increase your cell reception, you can buy a boosting device such as the goTenna.



On to some random items...

I have a foldable backpack in my vehicle kit, just in case I need another backpack. It folds up very small as you can see in the picture.





I have a small fire extinguisher, which is definitely a good idea. The one I use is made by a company called Cold Fire.



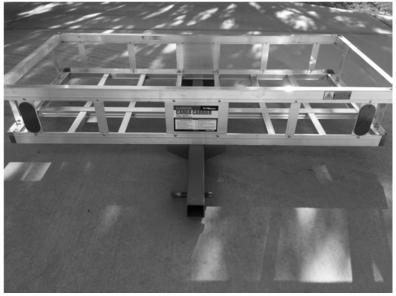
My Jeep obviously doesn't have a ton of space inside. This is why I utilize cargo carriers that you can see in the following pictures. I can throw a cooler or tent or other large item onto these. If your vehicle is larger, such as a Suburban, you won't necessarily need one of these.

One of my cargo carriers is mounted above the spare tire, as you'll see in the pictures. The other cargo carrier I can insert into the trailer hitch, if I need the space.









A set of binoculars is a good item to have in your vehicle kit. It allows you to see

threats off in the distance. You don't have to buy a super-expensive pair, but also don't buy a piece of junk at the dollar store.



If you're in a crisis situation and you want to drive undetected to avoid looters or other trouble, you can purchase blackout lights.

These go on the front of your vehicle and allow you to drive (slowly) at night.

You won't be able to see very far in front of your vehicle, so don't think you're going to be cruising at 80mph using your blackout lights. But, if you're really worried about being detected, this is something to consider.

Here are a few final items to wrap up your vehicle survival kit...

- Gloves. Buy a quality pair. Don't go cheap.
- Spare clothes such as socks, shirt, pants and jacket.
- Cash. I would have at least \$200 in your car in \$10 and \$20 bills.
- Duct tape
- Heavy duty trash bags
- Sunscreen
- Ice scraper
- Paper maps of the area
- Tie down straps
- Inkzall marker and paper to write on
- Toilet paper
- Motor oil

• Spare tire (with plenty of air in it)

There you have it. I know that's a lot of gear. Remember, pick and choose what makes sense for you.

I know you're not going to want or agree with everything I've listed. But, if you discover even just one item that gets you out of a sticky situation one day, then it's worth it.

Most importantly, instead of just putting this book on a shelf and never looking at it again, please start putting together your own vehicle survival kit this week.

About the Author

Jason R. Hanson is a former CIA Officer and the *New York Times* bestselling author of Spy Secrets That Can Save Your Life. Jason is a frequent media guest and has appeared on The Today Show, Dateline, Rachael Ray, Fox & Friends, Shark Tank and more. Jason runs his Spy Escape & Evasion training school out of Cedar City, UT.

Resources

2-Day Live Escape & Evasion Training Event

www.SpySurvivalEvent.com

30 Days to Combat Handgun Accuracy training guide

www.GunAccuracy.com

The Ultimate Self-Defense and Survival Knife:

www.NOCknife.com

The Ultimate Spy Week:

An adrenaline-charged week of escape & evasion, firearms training, evasive driving, hand to hand combat, and more.

www.SpyWeek.com

Opportunities

For opportunities on working, partnering, or doing joint ventures with Jason, please email jason@spybriefing.com or visit www.SpyBriefing.com. Thank you.