

The Weight of it All

So... you decided to accumulate some stuff. Good for you! And now your plan is to bugout to a safe place. But wait... Uh oh, you've run out of gas! Oh no, the car won't even start!

Another scenario... Another reason... Long story short, you are now on foot. Now what?

Well, are you alone or do you have friend and assorted family members to help carry the load? Things are going to go from bad to worse in a hurry if you haven't got friends and family to assist because my guess is... you didn't account for just how much your load weighs.

You might have done yourself some favors if you managed to

- Pre-positioned some useful things, OR
- Weighed everything you plan to carry

The weight of it all will be the determining factor for what goes and what stays if you're on foot. Period. No 'if's ands or but's'.

Let's take a look at some common things you might have with you... you know, things like:

- Fuel (various)
 - Regular - 6 lbs. per gallon
 - Diesel – 7.6 lbs. per gallon
 - Propane – 4.25 lbs. per gallon
 - Kerosene – 6.82 lbs. per gallon
- Water - 8.34 lbs. per gallon
- Ammo
 - 40 S&W – 3.56 lbs. per 100 rds.
 - 9 mm (115 gr) – 2.63 lbs. per 100 rds.
 - 45 ACP (230 gr) – 4.69 lbs. per 100 rds.
 - 22 LR (36 gr) – 0.75 lbs. per 100 rds.
 - .223/5.56x45 (63 gr) – 2.69 lbs. per 100 rds.
- Weapons
- Tents
- Sleeping bags
- Propane Tank
- Camping Stove
- Food

Let's delve a little deeper in to this ammo business. If you're like me, you don't really like being separated from your weapons and ammo. The below image might make you think differently. It'll definitely make you re-consider staging and/or caching.

Common Ammunition Caliber Weights		
Pistol Calibers	Rifle Calibers	Shotgun Calibers
.380 Rounds per pound: 47.06 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 2.13	.22 LR Remington Golden 36gr PHP Rounds per pound: 133.33 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 0.75	12GA 2 3/4" Slug Federal HI-Shok Slug Rounds per pound: 10.53 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 9.50
9mm Luger Hornady 115gr JHP/XTP Rounds per pound: 38.10 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 2.63	.223/5.56X45 (milsurp) British Radway Green SS109 63gr Rounds per pound: 37.21 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 2.69	12GA 2 3/4" #4 Shot Remington Express 4BK Rounds per pound: 9.30 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 10.75
.38 Special Rounds per pound: 34.78 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 2.88	30-30 Winchester (a.k.a. .30WCF) Winchester Silvertip 170gr flat nose Rounds per pound: 20.28 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 4.92	12GA 2 3/4" #7 1/2 Shot Federal #7 1/2 Shot Rounds per pound: 10.53 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 9.75
.357Mag. Remington UMC 125gr SJHP Rounds per pound: 30.77 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 3.25	.243 Winchester 75gr Hornady V-max Handloads Rounds per pound: 22.22 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 4.5	12GA 2 3/4"00 Buckshot Federal Express 9 Pellet Rounds per pound: 9.76 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 10.25
.357Mag. Handload 158gr JHP Rounds per pound: 28.07 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 3.56	.308 Winchester Remington UMC 150gr FMJ Rounds per pound: 19.05 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 5.25	12GA 3" Slug Federal 3" Rifled Slug Rounds per pound: 8.89 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 11.25
40S&W Rounds per pound: 28.07 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 3.56	.308 Winchester 168gr BTHP Match Bullet Rounds per pound: 18.67 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 5.35	
.44magnum 200gr Hornady XTP HP Rounds per pound: 22 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 4.57	7mm Remington Magnum Winchester 175gr Power Point Rounds per pound: 14.68 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 6.81	
.44magnum 240gr LSWC Bullet Rounds per pound: 19.7 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 5.07	7.62X39 Wolf Steel Case 122gr FMJ Rounds per pound: 27.59 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 3.63	
.45ACP 230gr Winchester Ball Rounds per pound: 21.33 Weight per 100 rounds (lbs): 4.69		

To aid us in this bit of knowledge sharing, I do have to disclose, and want to point you to someone who is more knowledgeable than I... and that would be the folks over at Graywolf Survival. I've been subscribed to Graywolf Survival for a while now and I've managed to save this link for a long time wondering when I might use it... well that time is now. Here's an article he posted regarding a [25lb. Bug Out Bag](#).

Just in case you aren't feeling all that froggy and don't wanna click another link, here's a breakdown of what he put in his pack.

List Item	Grams	Pounds	Ounces
Pack, Osprey Atmos 65, Large – Graphite Grey	1716	3.78	60.53
Bag, Survival-Tools*	1174	2.6	41.62
Bag, Electronic*	1110	2.45	39.15
Mtn Hardwear Sleeping Bag / Compression Dry Sack, XS	870	1.92	30.69
Bag, Clothing*	828	1.83	29.21
Hatchet, Fiskars/Sheath	706	1.56	24.9
Cook Set*	682	1.5	24.06
Bag, Hygiene-Toiletries*	446	0.98	15.73
Bag, Medical*	436	0.96	15.38
Rain Jacket/Wind Breaker, lightweight, summer	360	0.79	12.7
Knife, SOG Pup with sheath, stone, Doan's ferro/magn	350	0.77	12.35
Emergency Blanket, Large	336	0.74	11.85
Sandals, Airwalk	290	0.64	10.23
Radio, Ham, Yaesu VX-6R/Clip	254	0.56	8.96
Multitool, Gerber	232	0.51	8.18
Fuel, Alcohol, Heet, Yellow, 8oz in squeeze container	208	0.46	7.34
Slingshot and rounds	152	0.34	5.36
Lantern, Solar, Luci inflatable	102	0.22	3.6
Cup, titanium, Snow Peak H450	101	0.22	3.56
Gloves, white leather	92	0.2	3.25
Towel, microfiber, McNett, Medium	92	0.2	3.25
Bowls, Fozzils, pair	80	0.18	2.82
Flashlight, Fenix LD12 and AA battery	80	0.18	2.82
Hat, Boonie Cap	72	0.16	2.54
Rope, 750 cord, 25'	64	0.14	2.26
Flashlight, Zebra Light, SC52w L2 and AA battery	62	0.14	2.19
Trowel, Orange	52	0.11	1.83
Compass, Suunto	46	0.1	1.62
Sawyer Mini and straw	44	0.1	1.55
Antenna, ham radio, SRH77CA	40	0.09	1.41
Goggles, Swimming	40	0.09	1.41
Handkerchief, Green, Harley Davidson	32	0.07	1.13
Condor Multi-wrap Neck Gaiter	32	0.07	1.13
Sunscreen, 1 oz	32	0.07	1.13
Spoon, Titanium, long	22	0.05	0.78
Earplugs with Case	22	0.05	0.78
Spatula, Folding	20	0.04	0.71
Finem Tea Steeper	16	0.04	0.56
Light, Keychain	12	0.03	0.42
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Fresnel Lens	1	0	0.04
Total Weight	11320	24.96	399.3

Call the bag/backpack what you want, but the point is... carrying something with that much useful stuff that only weighs as much as a two year old is gonna save your life. (He's even placed links to most of the gear he packed so you have a head start!)

I can only assume that you are carrying propane for some little stove of some kind. Great! That's 4.25 lbs per gallon. How much are you planning on bringing?

Oh wait, you've got three weeks of water for your family of four? Well done! Way to be prepared! That's 8.34 lbs. per gallon!

You even remembered your weapons! Excellent! That's a couple pounds apiece!

Your food rations? Tents? Sleeping bags? There's another 15+ lbs!

How do you plan on transporting all of that if your car breaks down? Or runs out of fuel?

How do you plan on transporting that if your car doesn't even work?

Do yourself a favor, pack light and pack accordingly. If you, quite literally, have got a truck load of stuff AND you're pulling a trailer loaded with even more supplies... you've got some decisions to make because you are beyond screwed.

So what are your options if you broke down or there was an electrical disturbance... let's get creative. In a grid down, no electronics scenario, you could:

- Construct a one man litter to lash as much as possible and drag it with you...



- Keep a functioning bicycle loaded on your vehicle and lash as much as you can to that...



- Maybe combine the bike with a pull behind bike carrier to cram as much as possible into that AND lash as much as possible to the bike itself...



Or perhaps you're planning on gardening when you get there.

- You might have a yard cart strapped to your rig. You could load that and get on down the road...



None of these options are optimal. At a minimum, you'll be making multiple trips depending on how far you are from your destination. Whatever you do, don't leave it all on the truck. Unload everything and stash it somewhere nearby under cover so could, in theory, come back for more supplies if need be.

You're gonna need to have a back-up plan to your back-up plan in a worst case scenario.

Frankly, your best bet would be to not have to travel with all of your supplies. If possible, put just about everything you need at your destination, not your point of origin!

Is there a risk? You betcha! Someone could come along and take all your gear and supplies... the question is... where is your destination? Is it secluded? Are there friends and family nearby who could check on your stuff?

Do yourself a favor, if possible, and stash/cache as much as humanly possible so, should the situation arise, you only need to carry what you'll need to reach your destination.