



Dual-Purpose Bug-Out Survival Gear

with Jeff Anderson for www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com

Space Is Limited In Your BOB

Your Bug Out Bag (BOB) has only so much room. It makes sense to have a few items that can serve two completely different, even opposite functions, depending on your goal in your response to a crisis.

- You might want to draw attention to be found.
- You might need to escape and evade so as NOT to be found.
- The role you're playing to survive could change over the course of the emergency scenario and survival event.
- Bugging out is like a military mission: You need to get from Point A to Point B quickly. The whole time, you have to evade detection and even detention.
- Other times, you WANT to have contact with other people in order to be rescued, such as if you are trapped, cut off, or even injured and immobile.
- The following pieces of gear can serve two different functions depending on which "survival role" you are playing:

Signal Flag

This is a flag that has blaze orange on one side and a US flag on the other.

- You can wave it in the air or attach it to something for signaling for help. It can also serve to mark landing areas for aircraft (tie it in a tree, use rocks to spread it on the ground, etc.).
- Can be used for defense, including for patriotic inspiration to keep you fighting. It may also diffuse conflict by sharing patriotic common cause with other survivors.
- Can be used as a "false flag" deception tool.

Flare Gun

The Orion flare gun, available at Wal-Mart in the boating section for about \$50, has LOTS of power. It burns hot for 7 seconds and can reach 500 feet in height to signal others.

- Can be used for defense. The flare moves at 1,600 fps, faster than a bullet.
- Russian/Czech/Polish flare guns are also an option.
- Some flare guns have inserts for actual bullets (check your local laws).

Signal Mirror

This can be used to signal by reflecting sunlight.

- Can signal aircraft or other personnel.
- Signal mirrors are a good, silent alternative commo method that can't be overheard if they aren't seen.

Smoke Grenade

Available in multiple versions for airsoft, paintball, etc.

- Can be used for rescue to signal choppers and identify wind direction.
- Good for escape and evasion (to break contact from ambush and hide movement in high-treat areas by using as a literal smoke screen).

Resources

The following are good sources for gear:

- [Signal Mirrors](#)
- [Smoke Grenades \(non-military\)](#)
- ["Military Level" Smoke Grenades](#)

Prepare. Train. Survive.