

What is the Safest City in the United States of America?

By Lance Winslow - 2001

So, have you ever considered the question; **What is the safest city in America?**

Sure you have, as that is what has brought you here to read about the *search for the safest city*. First, looking at weather patterns, it appears that if there is a **nuclear war** we must be concerned with the challenge of nuclear fallout, where would you want to be in that case?

Remember that weather patterns start in the West or North West and move across the country and change throughout the year; not always, but for the most part the winds circulate from East to West. So, if you live East of the West Coast you could be in trouble if a Western city gets nuked. Then there are the East Winds in CA, which are called the Santa Ana Winds, which are hot, fast moving and dry, the worst possible conditions for fires. As we see every few years in the *Southern CA mountains*.



So, then perhaps you might wish to live on the **West Coast**, fairly good weather all year and the wind blows the other way, but you would want to live far from any major city on the West Coast. Not in LA, Not near the Nuclear Power plants, and not near the *Military bases of Pt Mugu, Camp Pendleton or Vandenburg AFB*. So where? Probably on the coast *between Humbolt, CA and mid state Oregon*, but alas there are huge faults along the West Coast and the OR Coastline is riddled with issues from liquefaction to offshore *Tsunami generating Earthquake* faults. Thus you would want to live at an elevation in excess of **200 feet above sea level**.

San Francisco gets huge **Earthquakes** as we know and **Los Angeles** is not immune either and neither is the central valley of CA with its issues after proof in the *Coalinga Fault*. Living between the Russian River and OR Coastline near the coast would be okay even with these issues. Also, you would not be downwind from any fallout and you are not a target. Safe in that you have fish for food and lumber for heat and no need for much of anything like power, surrounded by capable woods people. You would have lots of rain and no water that would be polluted running off from areas of fallout.



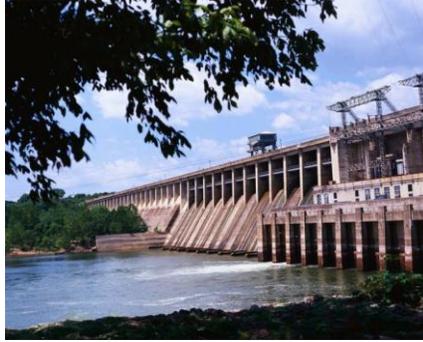
Of course, from an attack by sea from the Pacific side in the case of invasion, you would not be in the best spot, we are not expecting any wars, yet 20 years from now **China** will still be our biggest trading partner or will 2 billion of them like this piece of real estate? If we were attacked for some reason you would have air support from all the Navy and Air guard Bases along the **Pacific Coast**. Where are other good spots? If **Seattle** was not hit by a weapon of mass destruction then you still have Earthquakes and remember **Mt. Saint Helen**, its not the only **Volcano** in **WA state**.

There are some cities inland on the **I-5 freeway** surrounded by mountains, but they are close to volcanoes too? Where else would be good? Well not **Phoenix**, not **Las Vegas** and **Reno** is over the hill from CA and gets all it's left over weather. **Boise** has issues too although there are other cities in ID worthy of mention. **Salt Lake** is on a **huge Earthquake fault**.



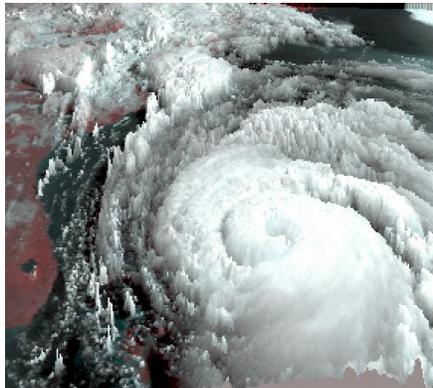
How about **Helena MT**, well it is drought plagued and fire issues. **Kellogg ID** is a superfund area and **Billings** out of water, **Bozeman**? Well too close to the State Park and there are issues with the volcanoes there too. Butte, MT also too close to volcanoes and arsenic in the water from the old copper mining. **Casper WY** out of water and down wind in case of **Volcanic Activity** from **Yellow Stone**.

If Portland, SF or LA are not hit with nukes then perhaps **Four Corners, Elko NV, Battle Mountain** (armpit of World is their slogan) are doable with large underground water supply but it has arsenic in it. **Winnamucka NV** many not be safe either, but has thermal activity for power. ND and SD seem safe too, but winter weather is tough. Border states are not smart either from Mexico or Canada, remember the International Terrorist Threats. *The water supply in the Midwest* is important, but the **Ogallala underground aquifer** is being drained fast and could cause Earthquake from collapse. Western NE, not good, **Denver** either in case of water supply issues in future or fallout from volcano in Yellow Stone. How about in the Northern Section of AZ?



Flagstaff has harsh weather, fire season. **Winslow AZ** is okay, with rail and FWY, but isolated. Of course, these are only a few western states really and well we have identified several great locations with everything you need to survive. Having studied the FEMA reports and the regional issues of each area and state and the disaster plans, we are well served by such data, but it falls short and a comprehensive plan of attack needs to be considered, because many people living in a region will need supplies, such as we see after major Hurricanes.

Which, by the way leaves us to wonder if there are in fact any safe cities on the entire Eastern Seaboard, Gulf Coast or West FL coastlines. As we saw in the black out of 2003, the **Hurricanes** and loss of power, the many fires in drought areas of CA, AZ, NV, MT, ID, OR, NM these are all big issues. When multiple disasters hit, and transportation is down, power is out, water turned off, dams broken, bridges out, etc. then what? Well, for some it will be their demise, others have adequately planned.



Some of the safest cities are sitting near large underground water supplies and generate their own power or have co-generation plants, which are co-ops near by. Those mid western cities near large rivers are not safe due to the issues with **flooding**, as we have seen and will continue to see every three to five years some town gets it. The water is fresh and clean in those areas and very soft, but when it floods, it is a disaster and very dangerous too.

Some would say it is probably unnecessary to have a major disaster plan, however it is a good exercise anyway, in planning. Things of importance are fresh water supply uncontaminated, food supply, encapsulated market, not over populated, no problems with contaminated air from normal weather patterns know and comparable to the last 200 years, outside of a fire zone and a defensible location.



Also of secondary importance outside the risk of major seismic activity, travel from major highways causing an influx of others trying to get away thus bringing in diseases or viruses or using up local natural resources. Worst places to be ***D.C., state capital cities*** with lots of military bases close by, cities on major freeways with bridges and no other ways around for over 40 miles or passes on mountain ranges.

The cities, which **do not make the safest cities** are ***Denver, Dallas, Mobile, Biloxi, Seattle, Chicago, NYC, Orlando, Tampa, Las Vegas, Salt Lake, LA***, etc. Cities with no way to get out the population quickly are of problem, for instance DC with its *daily gridlock* or *Los Angeles, Atlanta, SF*, etc. Cities, which rely on outside sources to get in important stuff are bad. Not to mention you are more likely to die from an auto wreck, although on the plus side they have the cleanest and best filtered water supplies. That of course a trade off from the polluted air around you, which could also kill you before your average life expectancy figure.



Port cities and cities with big major airports, which are hubs for major airlines are bad too. Cities that are big but do not have fed banks are one click down on the list too. Think of the logistics by train too. Cities which are down river close to major railroad bridges, which handle lots of interstate trains are bad too. Port cities get an extra bad deal. Cities which are close to port cities which are over 2 million population are dangerous too.

Large cities near borders of Mexico are dangerous if they have over 2 million populations - ***San Diego County, San Antonio, Phoenix, Austin TX, Houston, even throw in Tucson, El Paso, Yuma***; all bad. Already at a fresh water supply problem time due to droughts and over populations. ***Santa Monica*** is bad and LAX is a bad area to be near. A problem at the sewer treatment plant

near **LAX** could be devastating with chlorine gas and weather patterns, with a weapon of mass destruction. Worrisome also to our scenario of possibilities is the major computer brain areas.



Like **Silicon Valley, Seattle, VA** and other Internet hubs, which would also include **Boston**. I would like to see a comprehensive plan to save American lives if an attack or Mother Nature event occurs, one, which encompasses the entire country. Perhaps this is a good job for our war planners at the Pentagon, to try a reverse order plan, it would help them learn where best to minimize vulnerabilities and an action plan against **International Terrorists** or **Catastrophic Mother Nature Events**.

I have been to every city in the United States over 10,000 in population. Where have you lived? Have you lived thru a natural disaster? Many of us have. The Hurricanes alone last year alone added 40 more million people to that list, it was a costly year for **FEMA**, but we made it through and showed resilience. So where are you safe?



The answer might be nowhere or everywhere and preparation and quality of first responders may hold that key. What were your concerns and immediate needs during that period in your life when you faced such uncertainty? What would you tell others who plan to protect the property and lives of America, too the first responders, planners and those entrusted to protect humanity in the times of need.

So you tell me what city in America do you feel is best?

What city in America do you feel is safest?

How does your city rate?