



What Could Disrupt Modern Civilization?

Big risks, and how families and societies build resilience

Historical examples

Event	Impact
1859 Carrington solar storm	Sparked telegraph lines; a repeat today could hit power grids
1918 influenza pandemic	About 50 million deaths worldwide
2003 Northeast blackout	About 50 million people lost power
2021 Texas winter storm	Millions without power for days

Most disruptions are regional and temporary; preparation shortens them.

What makes people resilient



Water and food

At least several days for everyone, ideally two weeks



Power

Batteries, solar and a safe generator plan



Communication

GMRS and ham radios when phones fail



Community

Neighbors who know and help each other

Big risks and defenses

Risks

- Pandemics
- Grid failures and solar storms
- War and cyberattacks

Defenses

- Vaccines, hygiene and early warning
- Hardened grids and local backup power
- Diplomacy, deterrence and backups

Sources: Ready.gov; CDC; NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center

Remember

You can't prevent every disaster, but water, power, communication and good neighbors carry families through most of them.