



Sun Buckets

# **THE REI REPORT**

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Increasing amounts of refugees and North American campers are finding they have more and more in common. Climate change has forced high income countries to deal with those issues usually tackled only during war time. Now, however, it's a different kind of war. A war against climate change. While many might find this extreme, let's look at some FEMA disasters of the past decade:

1. **The Texas Severe Winter Storms (4586-DR-TX)** also referred to as The Texas Power Crisis of 2021 shut down the state's complete power grid leaving people without heat, lighting and the ability to cook food for weeks.
2. **Mississippi Hurricane Ida (4626-DR-MS)** caused massive blackouts that continued throughout the region for 10 days. Tent cities went up.
3. **California Wildfires (4569-DR-CA)** destroyed over 24,000 buildings, leaving 600,000 people displaced and homeless. New terms were coined including “refugees in one’s own country” and “climate migrants” to describe the widespread displacement.

In the coming 50 years, Northern California is expected to suffer a major earthquake. We need to prepare residents and communities by providing individual disaster kits and systems for temporary usage while infrastructure is rebuilt. **This will ensure less deaths and faster physical and psychological rebuilding.**

Now people are realizing the need to prepare for disaster using tools long used in camping and more recently used in humanitarian aid situations. Sun Buckets Inc., for example, is developing full disaster kits which provide individuals and community centers the capacity for solar cooking, lighting and heating. In a meeting with Humanitarian Grand Challenges Canada, Sun Buckets Inc. CEO, Ahava Zarembski, pointed to the new parallels being drawn and all participants agreed to opening dialogues with stores like REI and Mountain Equipment Company (MEC) to explore collaboration between disaster aid and camping stores. The next stage in development is an understanding of the similarities rather than the differences between how much power (and lack thereof) we have in the human experience.

In general, humbling ourselves to the earth’s power rather than assuming governments are fail proof is becoming more and more consequential. Items such as the Sun Bucket solar cook stove, chlorine and iodine drops to purify water and solar lighting - also being worked by companies such as Luminaid - emphasize the commonality between camping stores, living off the grid, and what's been needed for a long time in the developing world. Perhaps the good part of climate change is the growing understanding that we are all in this boat together and need to work together to weather the storm.

– Ahava Zarembski

