Wilderness Survival Kits

SURVIVAL KITS

Certain items of equipment are considered essential for hunting, fishing, backpacking or other trips into the bush. Success or failure of the trip may well depend on the selection and use of specialized equipment.

To reduce the possibility of failure and prolong life expectancy, it is good planning to plan for the best and prepare for the worst. Consider the possibility of getting lost. Would you have with you the minimum equipment to stay alive in the bush? Would you know how to effectively use the equipment until rescued?

The following list of items is considered a minimum for the 21st Century outdoorsman. You may wish to add items but don't go out into the field without the minimum. Always dress for the occasion: You want clothing to live in, not to be found dead in.

The environment is the key to the types of items you will need in your survival kit. How much equipment you put in your kit depends on how you will carry the kit. A kit carried on your body will have to be smaller than one carried in a vehicle. Always layer your survival kit, keeping the most important items on your body. For example, your map and compass should always be on your body. Carry less important items on your load-bearing equipment. Place bulky items in your daypack or backpack.

In preparing your survival kit, select items you can use for more than one purpose. If you have two items that will serve the same function, pick the one you can use for another function. Do not duplicate items, as this increases your kit's size and weight.

Your survival kit need not be elaborate. You need only functional items that will meet your needs and a case to hold the items. For the case, you might want to use a Band-Aid box, a first aid case, an ammunition pouch, or another suitable case. This case should be

water repellent or waterproof, easy to carry or attach to your body, durable.

In your survival kit, you should have

Shelter Construction Materials (examples)
Solar blanket, plastic tarp, garbage bags, tube tent
Dental floss, rope, fishing line, nylon cord

Fire Production: (examples)
Lighter, metal match, waterproof matches
Candle stub
Flint starter or magnesium bar
Magnifying lens
Cotton balls, dryer lint

Safe Water Procurement (examples)
Water purification tablets or drops
Plastic for water collection

Signaling (examples)
Signaling mirror
Whistle
Flare
Flashlight
Cell phone or Radio

Multi-Purpose (examples)
Fish and snare line, fishhooks.
Bandana
Aluminum foil
Duct tape
Tweezers, needle, thread
Safety pins
Paper and pencil
Knife
Hardy candy
Plastic bags/garbage bag
18” x 18” Aluminum Foil
(can form cooking utensil)

First aid items
Chapstick, Sunscreen
Aspirin, Tylenol
Comb (cactus removal)
Antiseptic Cream
Bandaids, etc

Misc items
Map and compass (know how to use)