

Stranded on a Mountain - the team building survival game

As well as being a fun exercise, this will also give team members the chance to see what type of role they naturally take within a group. This will help with deciding on roles. You could either do the activity with the whole group or split the groups into two smaller ones.

Explain the exercise like this:

After your small light aircraft crashes, your group, wearing casual clothing, is stranded on a forested mountain in appalling winter weather (snow covered, sub-freezing conditions), anything between 50 and 200 miles from civilization (you are not sure of your whereabouts, and radio contact was lost one hour before you crashed, so the search operation has no precise idea of your location either). The plane is about to burst into flames and you have a few moments to gather some items. Aside from the clothes you are wearing which does not include coats, you have no other items. It is possible that you may be within mobile phone signal range, but unlikely.

Your aim is to survive as a group until rescued. From the following list choose just ten items that you would take from the plane, after which it and everything inside is destroyed by fire.

First you have five minutes by yourself to consider and draw up your own individual list of what the team should have, without consulting with other members of the group. Keep this list after presenting it briefly to the group. Then you have 15 minutes as a group to discuss and agree a list on behalf of the group. Nominate a spokesperson and present this new list.

Afterwards, you can discuss with the team as a whole the benefits of discussion, teamwork, collective expertise, group communication skills, etc., in the team approach to compiling the list, compared to each individual working alone to establish a list.

List of items:

- Pack of 6 boxes x 50 matches
- Roll of polythene sheeting 3m x 2m
- 1 bottle of brandy
- 1 crate of bottled spring water (twelve litres in total)
- Small toolbox containing hammer, screwdriver set, adjustable wrench, hacksaw, large pen-knife
- Box of distress signal flares
- Small basic first-aid kit containing plasters, bandages, antiseptic ointment, small pair of scissors and pain-killer tablets
- Tri-band mobile phone with infrared port and battery half-charged
- Clockwork transistor radio
- Gallon container full of fresh water
- Box of 36 x 50gm chocolate bars
- Shovel
- Short hand-held axe
- Hand-gun with magazine of 20 rounds
- 20m of 200kg nylon rope
- Box of 24 x 20gm bags of peanuts
- Box of tissues
- Laptop computer with infrared port, modem, unknown software and data, and unknown battery life
- Inflatable 4-person life-raft
- Compass.
- Large full Aerosol can of insect killer spray
- Small half-full aerosol can of air freshener spray
- Notebook and pencil
- Travelling games compendium containing chess, backgammon & draughts
- Sewing kit
- Whistle
- Torch with a set of spare batteries
- Box of 50 night-light 6hr candles
- Bag of 6 large blankets