

WINTER SURVIVAL EXERCISE by MAJ Bob Fields

PAGE 4

Ranking of survival items by Mark Wanig, Survival and Reconnaissance School
Instructor - 101st Division US Army -now a civilian Survival Instructor

12. **SKI POLES** Although they are not very important, the poles are useful as a flag pole or staff for signaling. They can be used to stabilize a person walking through the snow to collect wood, and to test the thickness of the ice on a lakeshore or stream. Probably their most useful function would be as supports for shelter or by the fire as a heat reflector.
13. **QUART OF 85 PROOF WHISKEY** The only useful function of whiskey is to aid in fire building or as a fuel. A torch could be made from a piece of clothing soaked in the whiskey and attached to an upright ski pole. The danger of the whiskey is that someone might try to drink it when it is cold. Whiskey takes on the temperature it is exposed to, and a drink of it at minus 30 degrees would freeze a person's esophagus and stomach and do considerable damage to the mouth. Drinking it will cause dehydration. The bottle, kept warm, would be useful for storing drinking water.
14. **SECTIONAL AIR CHART MAKE OF PLASTIC** This is dangerous because it will encourage individuals to attempt to walk to the nearest town, thereby condemning them to almost certain death.
15. **COMPASS** Because the compass may also encourage some survivors to try to walk to the nearest town, it too is a dangerous item. The only redeeming feature of the compass is the possible use of its glass as a reflector of sunlight to signal a search plane, but it is the least effective of the potential signaling devices available. That it might tempt survivors to walk away from the crash sight makes it the least desirable of the 15 items.

THE LIST IN ORIGINAL ORDER (ON FIRST PAGE)

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| 11 | Compress kit (with 28' x 2" gauze) | 2 | Ball of steel wool |
| 1 | Cigarette Lighter (no fluid) | 9 | Loaded .45 caliber pistol |
| 8 | Newspaper (1 per person) | 15 | Compass |
| 12 | 2 Ski poles | 10 | Knife |
| 14 | Sectional air-chart of plastic | 7 | 30 feet of rope |
| 4 | Family size Hershey Bar (1 each) | 6 | Flashlight with batteries |
| 13 | Quart of 85-proof whiskey | 3 | Extra shirt & pants for each person |
| 5 | Can of shortening | | |

THE LIST IN RANK ORDER

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Cigarette Lighter (no fluid) | 9 | Loaded .45 caliber pistol |
| 2 | Ball of steel wool | 10 | Knife |
| 3 | Extra shirt & pants for each person | 11 | Compress kit (with 28' x 2" gauze) |
| 4 | Family size Hershey Bar (1 each) | 12 | 2 Ski poles |
| 5 | Can of shortening | 13 | Quart of 85-proof whiskey |
| 6 | Flashlight with batteries | 14 | Sectional air-chart of plastic |
| 7 | 30 feet of rope | 15 | Compass |
| 8 | Newspaper (1 per person) | | |



OPINIONS AND FEELINGS ARE FREQUENTLY A PERSONAL TRIUMPH OVER GOOD THINKING
YOU DEFINE REALITY BY WHAT YOU KNOW, WHAT YOU BELIEVE, AND WHAT YOU DO ABOUT IT.