**Desert Survival Activity**

# Please read the following situation and then rank all the items in terms of their importance, giving 1 to the most important and 15 to the least important. Do this individually, without discussing with anyone else.

# THE SITUATION

It is approximately 10.00am in mid August and you have just crash-landed in the Sonora Desert in south western USA. The light twinned engine plane, containing the bodies of the pilot and co-pilot, has completely burned out. Only the frame remains. None of the rest of you has been injured

The pilot was unable to notify anyone of your position before the crash. However, he had indicated before impact that you were 70 miles south-west from a mining camp which is the nearest known habitation, and that you were approximately 65 miles off the course that was filed in your VFR flight plan.

The immediate area is quite flat and except for occasional barrel and saguaro cacti, appears to be rather barren. The last weather report indicated that the temperature would reach 110 degrees Fahrenheit, which means that the temperature at ground level will be around 130 degrees. You are dressed in lightweight clothing – short sleeved shirts, lightweight trousers, socks and shoes. Everyone has a handkerchief. Collectively, your pockets contain $2.83 in change, $85.00 in notes, a pack of cigarettes and a ball point pen.

# YOUR TASK

Before the plane caught fire your group was able to salvage the 15 items listed. Your task is to rank these items according to their importance for survival, starting with ‘1’ for the most important to ‘15’ for the least important. You must rank all items.

You may assume:

* The number of survivors is the same as the number of people in your team
* You are the actual people in the situation
* The team has agreed to stick together
* All items are in good condition

Step 1: Please rank the importance of each item given your current situation. Do not discuss the situation or problem with anyone else until you have finished the ranking

## ITEMS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Your ranking  *(do this individually)* | Group ranking | Expert ranking |
| Flashlight (4 battery size) |  |  |  |
| Jack-knife |  |  |  |
| Sectional air map |  |  |  |
| Plastic raincoat (large size) |  |  |  |
| Magnetic compass |  |  |  |
| Compress kit with gauze |  |  |  |
| .45 calibre pistol (loaded) |  |  |  |
| Parachute (red & white) |  |  |  |
| Bottle of salt tablets (1,000) |  |  |  |
| 2 pints of water per person |  |  |  |
| Book entitled ‘Edible animals of the desert’ |  |  |  |
| A pair of sunglasses per person |  |  |  |
| 4 pints of 180 proof vodka |  |  |  |
| 1 top coat per person |  |  |  |
| A cosmetic mirror |  |  |  |

Please **DO NOT** discuss this exercise until instructed to do so.

Thank you.