**Surviving in the Rockies**

Imagine that a friend stops by your house on a Saturday Morning in October and suggests that you go with him for a day-long drive in the mountains to try out his new Jeep. You quickly pull on jeans, a sweatshirt, and sneakers to go along.

By late afternoon you are on a trail in a remote part of the Rockies, when suddenly a snowstorm blows up. The trail soon becomes impassable and you can hardly see where you are going. Suddenly the Jeep starts to skid and you plunge several hundred feet down a steep mountainside. Your friend is killed instantly and the Jeep is completely wrecked, but fortunately you have only a few scratches. By your best estimate you are 30 to 40 miles from the nearest source of help.

Luckily you discover a summer cabin nearby. Although it has no heat except a wood-burning fireplace and no telephone, it does offer shelter and about a weeks supply of food. You soon realize that you cannot hope to stay in the cabin until you are rescued, for no one has any idea where to start looking for you. Therefore, when the storm starts to abate, leaving almost three feet of dry powder snow, you decide to try to follow the trail back to civilization.

You are fortunate that the cabin is well stocked with camping equipment and other supplies and you can take almost anything you want, but you know that your survival over the three days it will probably take to reach help will depend partly on how carefully you select what equipment to take.

Below is a list of some of the materials the cabin contains and their weight. Decide which of the following items you will wear or carry, not exceeding a total of 50 pounds.

**A.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wool hat (.5 lbs) O.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ five 2 lb cans of soup (10 lbs)**

**B.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ heavy wool mittens (1 lb) P.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sleeping bag (5 lbs)**

**C.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ axe (8 lbs) Q.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ downhill skis, poles, bindings (10 lbs)**

**D.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 50 feet of light rope ( 1 lb ) R.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ air mattress ( 3 lbs)**

**E.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ saucepan ( 3 lbs ) S.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_down jacket, no hood ( 3 lbs )**

**F.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ folding camp saw ( 1 lb ) T.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ high top boots ( 6 lbs )**

**G.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_rock climbing gear ( 10 lbs ) U.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_snowshoes ( 5 lbs )**

**H.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_150 feet of heavy rope ( 8 lbs ) V.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_canvas tent (15 lbs)**

**I.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Coleman stove and fuel ( 10 lbs ) W.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_plastic tarp ( 2 lbs )**

**J.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_plastic canteen w/ water ( 2 lbs ) X.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8 boxes dry cereal ( 4 lbs total )**

**K.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_one large can beef stew ( 10 lbs) Y.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_First Aid Kit large ( 4 lbs )**

**L.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_fire starting kit w/ matches ( .5 lb) Z.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_First Aid Kit small ( 1 lb )**

**M.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_heavy wool jacket w/ hood ( 8 lbs ) AA.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_heavy wool pants ( 4 lbs )**

**N.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_backpack ( 6 lbs ) BB.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_knife w/ can opener ( .5 lbs )**

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