

ASRC PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Search and Rescue operations require participants to possess skill, experience and equipment. The personally-owned equipment is essential to individual survival and effective functioning in any terrain, weather or group. When stored, it should be assembled in or with the rucksack, and all items should bear the individual's ASRC-registered color-code. As someone else may have to bring the gear to the scene, there should be a list attached naming missing items and their location. All should be accessible. Ask yourself, "If I were to be picked up on the street without S&R gear, could I function in the field when given my rucksack plus the listed items?" The following lists (I, II, III) are of minimum equipment: 'Brand-name' items are reliable goals although equivalents may be acceptable.

I. Rucksack + contents

- ✓ A. Rucksack: As it is soft, it is usually more effective than a 'frame' pack in wooded or climbing situations; should be large enough to carry all personal gear plus at least 1/2 cubic foot of team gear; should have capability of carrying or lashing overnight gear (bag), ropes, etc. Examples are Kelty Tour-Pack, Jensen, Wrapac
- ✓ B. Field rations: Working under strenuous conditions, participants need both high energy and quick energy foods, totaling at least 4500 K/cal, including hot-preparation and no-preparation types; trail snacks should be extra.
- ✓ C. Water, fresh and date labeled, at least 1 qt. in lightweight container; unbreakable.
- ✓ D. Eating utensils: Cup: 'Sierra' or equiv; cooking and drinking; metal. Spoon, large, metal.
- ✓ E. Bags: 'Zip-lok' or equiv; large; for map covers, food + water, protecting gear, etc.; about 1/2 doz.
- ✓ F. Matches: 'kitchen' or equiv; in waterproof case, with heads away from strike surface; about a dozen.
- ✓ G. Candle: 'Plumbers' or equiv; light or fire starter.
- ✓ H. Storm shelter: 'TMRU' or equiv, for emergency shelter.
- ✓ I. Whistle: 'police' or equiv; for emergency or noisy-area signalling.
- ✓ J. Compass: 'Orienteering' or equiv; pref luminous face.
- ✓ K. First Aid Kit: personal, sealed and protected; see List III, p2/3.
- ✓ L. Cord: at least 30 feet of small diameter 'parachute' or 'avalanche' type.

- F. Examination as determined by D/TT or representative
- G. Confirmation by D/TT with approval of Board of Directors
- H. Certification
 - 1. Presentation of Specialist Certificate
 - 2. Wear and Bear ASRC Specialist Identification
 - 3. Data File Documentatón
- I. At present (18DEC74GLH) the D/TT has defined the following as significant areas of specialty:
 - 1. Field
 - a. Field operations
 - b. Survival/Wilderness Travel
 - c. Rigging
 - d. Climbing
 - e. Caving
 - f. Communications
 - 2. Support
 - a. Base Operations
 - b. Search
 - c. Communications
 - d. Logistics
 - 3. Other indirectly needed (therefore non-certificated)
 - a. SCUBA
 - b. Sky Diving
 - c. Fire fighting
 - d. Law enforcement
 - e. Legal
 - f. Aircraft operations
 - g. Water operations

- M. Headlamp: 'Wonder' or 'Justrite' or equiv; electric with: 1) hook or attachment to helmet, 2) add-on red (night-vision) filter, 3) fresh and spare alkaline batteries with date labels, 4) low and high intensity bulbs and spares.
- N. Gloves: heavy leather for ropes and protection; should fit well, flex after drying, and clip onto carabiner.
- O. Clothes: Spares, including dry socks in plastic bag.
- P. Special: glasses strap, spare glasses, sun glasses, special medications, and sanitary equip., etc., as appropriate

II. Items carried on person

- A. appropriate clothing: suitable for the normalities and abnormalities of the area and season, day or night; recommend knickers, fishnets, 60/40 parka, wool clothes, cagoule, knit cap, rag-wool socks, etc.
- B. Helmet: 'MSR' strongly urged; with 1) lamp attachment, epoxied and 2) non-stretch chinstrap with one-hand quick-release buckle.
- C. Boots: sturdy medium-weight hiking; 'vibram' or equiv., lug soles; waterproofed; spare laces.
- D. Bandanna: for face mask, bandage, sweatband . . .
- E. Wristwatch: very sturdy (of course!) with luminous dial.
- F. Knife: 'Swiss Army' urged; on a lanyard; sharp!

III. First Aid Kit, personal

- A. Telfa pad, 3x4 3
- B. Gauze pad, 2x2 6
- C. Bandage compress, 4" 1
- D. Band-aids, 1" 12
- E. Elastic bandage, 2-1/2" 1
- F. Adhesive tape, 1" 6 feet
- G. 'Moleskin' 12 sq. in.
- H. Aspirin 12
- I. Salt tablets, waxed 12
- J. Iodine water pure tablets 25
- K. Antiseptic soap in vial 1/2 oz.
- L. Tweezers w/tiny points 1
- M. Safety pins 4
- N. Needle and thread 2
- O. Single edge razor blade 1
- P. Sealed, crushproof container

IV. Personal Additions

A. Vertical gear - from vertical ropework courses

1. Seat harness
2. Descending system
3. Ascending system

B. Overnight gear

1. Sleeping bag: down or 'fiberfill;' lightweight and suitable for bad weather. (Strongly recommended as a routine part of rucksack, may be removed for obviously short, or some summer, operations.)
2. Ground pad: 'ensolite' or foam; to prevent conduction.
3. Sleep shelter: 'tube-tent;' optional: mountain tent, etc.

V. Group gear, possibly personally owned

A. Packstoves: 'MSR' or equiv; prefer 2 per group

B. Tents: 'mountain' type or equiv, as appropriate; enough to house all participants plus victims.

~~C. Radios to communicate with base, prefer 2 per group.~~

D. Litters: as needed, with rigs.

F. Ropes: as needed

F. First Aid Kit: heavy-duty, for victims, carried by EMT.

G. Camera: for documentation; usually carried by owner

H. Extra rations: as needed