

The Six Priorities of Wilderness Survival

- Location
- Shelter
- Fire
- Water
- Food
- First Aid

None of these priorities holds more importance over the other. It is the situation you are in that dictates which of these six priorities holds more sway.

Location

- **Pre-trip Plan:** Leave a trip itinerary with a trusted individual(s).
- **Communication:** Cell phone, satellite phone, personal locator and messenger beacons.
- **Map and Compass:** Know how to use them!
- **Trail Markings:** Survey tape, bent branches, rocks and blazing.
- **Signals:** Whistle, mirror, light, shadows, movement, flares, bangers, semaphore and fire.

Shelter

- **Clothing:** First line of defense against heat, cold, sun and moisture.
- **Methods of Heat Loss or Gain:** Conduction, convection, evaporation, radiation and respiration.
- **Ready Made Shelters:** Reflector tubes and blankets, tarps and garbage bags.
- **Natural Shelters:** Caves, rock overhangs, trees and protective areas.
- **Natural Material Shelters:** A-frame, lean-to, coffin, dome and snow cave.

Fire

- **Safe Use:** Beware of hazards above, below and on all sides.
- **Modern Equipment:** Match, lighter, ferrocium rod and piston.
- **Improvise:** Magnifying lense, battery and steel wool, rock and steel, chemical, friction.
- **Natural Tinder and Fuel:** Seed down, bark, grass, needles, twigs, sticks, pitch.
- **Manufactured Tinder:** Charred cloth, petroleum jelly with cotton, wax, and feather stick.

Water

- **Containers:** Plastic verses metal, wood, bark.
- **Purification:** Chemical, filter, solar, boil.

Food

- Packaged
- Plant Based
- Hunting
- Trapping
- Fishing
- Grubs
- Worms

First Aid

- **Critical** * Life Threatening - Requires professional rescue.
- **Major** * Non-Life Threatening - Requires return to urban support.
- **Minor** * Can be handled adequately in the field.
- First Aid Kits
- Improvisation