# Survival Scenario Exercise



## Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to facilitate group communication and mutual respect for different opinions/ways of thinking. The main goal is for groups to come to a consensus by at least partially agreeing. Avoid tactics such as voting. It is important that all opinions are considered and rationales heard.

#### Materials:

Scenario briefing (1 per group), list of items (1 per group), and answer sheet.

## **Directions:**

- Divide the class into groups of 5-10 members and explain that they will be required as a group to complete a survival scenario. Ask groups to elect a reader/recorder and then give them the scenario brief/ranking sheet.
- Read out the scenario to the class:
  - See Scenario PDF
- Following the activity and provide an opportunity for group discussion/rationale of rankings and a debrief of the activity (see below for possible discussion questions).
- Give the class the "answers" as provided by the coast guard (see answer sheet with rationales). Emphasize that it is not important whether they chose all the correct items or not, but rather that they came to a consensus and listened to/respected different perspectives.
- During the activity allow groups to work independently. However, be aware of students avoiding conflict or changing their minds simply to come to agreement. Also watch for over emphasis by group members for needing 100% accurate answers. Remind groups of the importance of communication and the decision making process.

#### Possible Discussion Questions:

- How were decisions made?
- Who influenced the decisions and how?
- How could better decisions have been made?
- Did people listen to each other? if not why not?
- What roles did group members adopt?
- How was conflict managed?
- What kinds of behaviour helped or hindered the group?
- How did people feel about the decisions?
- How satisfied was each person with the decision (ask each participant to rate his / her satisfaction out of 10, then obtain a group average and compare / discuss with other groups' satisfaction levels)
- What have you learned about the functioning of this group?
- How would you do the activity differently if you were asked to do it again?
- What situations at work/home/school do you think are like this exercise?