

“Official” ANSWERS to " Lost at Sea "

According to experts from the US Marine Corps, the basic supplies a person needs when they are shipwrecked in the middle of the ocean are of two kinds:

- Elements designed to attract the attention of the rescuers...
- Elements that are meant to survive until they arrive.
- Navigational items are of little importance, because even if a raft managed to reach shore, it would be impossible to have enough food and water to survive during this time. Hence the essential importance of the toilet mirror and the two petrol cans.

These objects can be used to signal its presence to an air rescue. Water and food, such as military rations, are of secondary importance.

Of course, the usefulness of each supply does not represent all the use that can be made of it, but its essential importance.

The main reason for classifying signaling items before survival items, food and water, is that without signaling equipment, there is virtually no chance of being located and rescued.

Most rescues take place within thirty-six hours of the shipwreck and one can survive without food and water during this time.

1. Toilet mirror: essential for signaling to air rescue,
2. Two gallon can of petrol: essential for being spotted, the petrol will float on the water and can be set on fire,
3. 5 gallon of water in a can: necessary for rehydration
4. A box of military rations: element that will provide basic food,
5. An opaque plastic sheet of 20 square feet: necessary to collect rainwater and provide shelter from the weather,
6. Two boxes of chocolate bars: food reserve,
7. Fishing tackle: classified less important than sweets, because you are not absolutely sure you will catch fish,
8. 15 ft nylon thread: this thread can be used to secure the equipment and prevent it from going overboard,
9. Floating cushion: can be used as a buoy if necessary,

10. Anti-shark powder: to secure the souls sensitive to the film " les dents de la mer ",
11. One quart of 160% proof rum to disinfect possible wounds. Not recommended as a drink, as it increases dehydration.
12. Small transistor radio: not very useful because it is not a transmitter and you are far from your favorite station.
13. Map of the Pacific Ocean: worthless without navigational equipment. It is more important to know the position of the rescuers than your own.
14. Mosquito net: there are no mosquitoes in the Pacific Ocean,
15. Sextant: useless without tables and stopwatch.