

***Survival Supplies***  
**A Bush Pilot's Response**  
(reference page 6, *The Story Invention Guide*)

Buddy Ferguson is a 20-year veteran bush pilot and aerial photographer in Alaska. Having survived four days of a forced landing, in blizzard conditions on an icy glacier, Buddy has had real experience with survival supplies. He contributed to this activity and suggests the following supplies as priority consideration for the two members searching for help:

- # 1 & 2      Water and energy bars (% of remaining supply)—People can only last a short time without water & food, especially in the desert.
- # 3            2 small backpacks for portage of supplies
- # 4            Magnetic compass—To know which direction the seekers are headed
- # 5 & 6      Topography map and road map of the area—Critical for identifying landmarks for location and of no use to crew with plane
- # 7            A signal flare or two—To notify any unexpected vehicles or planes. Leave some with the group.
- # 8            Wide beam flashlight—For travel and signaling by night, as long as batteries last.
- # 9            Some of the rope—Terrain might require safety lines, *i.e.*, steep slopes, sandstorms, fast moving water.
- #10           Selective first aid items—Maybe some insect repellent, a few bandages
- #11           1 pocket-knife—To defend against snakes, take lizards as prey, cut rope, etc.
- #12           Some of the matches—For signal and cook fires, if fuel can be found.

Considerations of other items on the list:

*Aviation map:* Could provide starter for a fire, or very marginal sun protection for the 2 seekers, or it would be essential to navigation, should the crew return the damaged plane to flight status (an unlikely event).

*FM Radio:* Only of use as a source of information should the seekers come within a limited distance of a transmitting antenna. Probably not worth the weight.

*Emergency locator transmitter:* Probably useless. Had it been functioning, the downed plane would probably have been located already.

*Self-inflating life vests:* Could be filled and worn as a water carrier.

*Life raft with flashing light:* Could provide protection from the sun and a night signal for those with the plane. Too heavy for consideration by the two going for help.

*Portable camp stove:* Too heavy for consideration by the two seekers. Might be useful for those with plane, for grilling lizards or rattlesnakes.

*Personal toiletries & clothes:* One change of clothes, possibly. Consider the season and the sun's effect, and go for skin coverage and weather protection.

*\$250 U.S. currency:* Probably useless for both groups, but not a weight consideration, either. Perhaps divide the money equally between the two groups, just in case. What groups of younger players might do with this item could be interesting. After all, a million dollars would buy you nothing, if you're stranded in the desert or on a glacier.

Of course, players might develop scenarios that would creatively reorder these priorities. This list is offered as background information, for group leaders only.

The ***Great News*** is that all team members made it safely back to their homes. How did they do it? The advanced storytelling opportunity, mentioned later on this Site under *Further Extensions*, encourages players to create the story of their rescue and return.

Another thought: Unless a hard surface can be provided for take-off, it's unlikely that a repaired wheeled aircraft could become airborne. The original movie solved this dilemma by restructuring the plane's hull into a sled-like configuration. Considering the tools likely to be on the airplane versus the tools needed for this fuselage restructuring, our bush pilot says this solution falls into the category of "creative storytelling!"

Buddy Ferguson's own storytelling accompanies his beautiful aerial photos of Southeast Alaska. Both can be viewed on his Web Site at [www.crfimages.com](http://www.crfimages.com).