

# Flight Plans and Survival Supplies

## General Rules

- ✓ Never fly over terrain you are not prepared to walk out of
- ✓ Carry supplies appropriate to the type of terrain, time of year, and number of passengers
- ✓ Having supplies is not enough – you have to know how to use them
- ✓ If flying over desolate terrain, consider taking basic survival and first aid classes
- ✓ If flying over large bodies of water, consider taking water survival classes and an underwater emergency egress course

## Survival Supplies in Alaska (state law for all flights in small planes)

- ✓ **Summer months**
  - ✓ Food for each occupant sufficient to sustain life for two weeks
  - ✓ One axe or hatchet
  - ✓ One first aid kit
  - ✓ One pistol, revolver, shotgun or rifle and ammunition for same
  - ✓ One small gill net and an assortment of tackle such as hooks, flies, lines, sinkers, etc.
  - ✓ One knife
  - ✓ Two small boxes of matches
  - ✓ One mosquito headnet for each occupant
  - ✓ Two small signalling devices such as colored smoke bombs, railroad fuses or very pistol shells, in sealed metal containers
- ✓ In addition to the above, the following must be carried from October 15 to April 1
  - ✓ One pair of snowshoes
  - ✓ One sleeping bag
  - ✓ One wool blanket for each occupant over four

## Survival Supplies in Canada (> 25 miles from airport)

- ✓ Survival equipment, sufficient for the survival on the ground of each person on board, given the geographical area, the season of the year and anticipated seasonal climatic variations, that provides the means for
  - ✓ Starting a fire
  - ✓ Providing shelter
  - ✓ Providing or purifying water
  - ✓ Visually signaling distress

## Old Canadian Regulations (good basis for a survival kit)

- ✓ Food having a caloric value of at least 10,000 calories per person carried, not subject to deterioration by heat or cold and stored in a sealed waterproof container bearing a tag or label on which the operator of the aircraft or his representative has certified the amount and satisfactory condition of the food in the container following an inspection made not more than 6 months prior to the flight
- ✓ Cooking utensils
- ✓ Matches in a waterproof container
- ✓ A stove and a supply of fuel or a self-contained means of providing heat for cooking when operating north of the tree line
- ✓ A portable compass
- ✓ An axe of at least 2 1/2 pounds or 1 kilogram weight with a handle of not less than 28 inches or 70 centimeters in length (typically referred to as a "Hudson Bay" axe)

- ✓ A flexible saw blade or equivalent cutting tool
- ✓ Snare wire of at least 30 feet or 9 meters and instructions for its use
- ✓ Fishing equipment including still fishing bait and a gill net of not more than a 2 inch or 3 centimeter mesh
- ✓ Mosquito nets or netting and insect repellent sufficient to meet the needs of all persons carried when operating in an area where insects are likely to be hazardous
- ✓ Tents or engine and wing covers of a suitable design, colored or having panels colored in international orange or other high visibility color, sufficient to accommodate all persons when operating north of the tree line
- ✓ Winter sleeping bags sufficient in quantity to accommodate all persons carried when operating in an area where the mean daily temperature is likely to be 7 degrees C (approx. 45 degrees F) or less
- ✓ Two pairs of snow shoes when operating in areas where the ground snow cover is likely to be 12 inches or 30 centimeters or more
- ✓ A signaling mirror
- ✓ At least 3 pyrotechnical distress signals
- ✓ A sharp jack-knife or hunting knife of good quality
- ✓ A suitable survival instruction manual
- ✓ Conspicuity panel
- ✓ The following are suggested as useful additional equipment
  - ✓ Spare Axe Handle
  - ✓ Honing stone or file
  - ✓ Ice chisel
  - ✓ Snow knife or snow saw
  - ✓ Snow shovel
  - ✓ Flashlight with spare bulbs and batteries
  - ✓ Pack sack

### Resources

- ✓ Aviation Survival - <http://www.equipped.com/avsrvtoc.htm>
- ✓ Wilderness Survival - <http://users.vianet.ca/~riva/wildsurv.html>
- ✓ Aircraft Survival Kits - <http://www.swaviator.com/html/issueMJ02/basics5602.html>

### How Useful is a Flight Plan? (From Air Force Rescue Coordination Center)

- ✓ 29% of pilots will survive the initial crash
  - ✓ 60% of those will be injured
    - ✓ 81% of those injured will die within 24 hours
    - ✓ 94% of those injured will die within 48 hours
  - ✓ Injured or not, survival decreases drastically after 72 hours
- ✓ Average time for AFRCC notification from last known position
  - ✓ No flight plan: 15 hours
  - ✓ VFR flight plan: 4 hours
  - ✓ IFR flight plan: 1 hour
- ✓ Average time to find crash site location after notification
  - ✓ No flight plan: 44.6 hours
  - ✓ VFR flight plan: 12.6 hours
  - ✓ IFR flight plan: 9.5 hours
- ✓ Average time to actual recovery from last known position (including notification delay)
  - ✓ No flight plan: 62.6 hours
  - ✓ VFR flight plan: 18.2 hours
  - ✓ IFR flight plan: 11.5 hours
- ✓ Average time to actual recovery from last known position based on ELT
  - ✓ ELT activated: 23 hours
  - ✓ ELT not activated: 114 hours