***Hurricane Rescue Mission***

***The following exercise was developed by Dr. Victor Vroom, Professor Emeritus of Organizational Behavior and Management of the Yale Graduate School of Business Management, in 1980 for the U.S. Department of Defense War College. There have been other variations of the same exercise, Rescue Mission on Mars and Rescue Mission on the Moon, but this was the original. This has been used in graduate business and management programs at countless Universities and for innumerable training seminars for corporations around the world. It is an exercise in group dynamics, decision making, crisis response, group communication, and leadership. (Standard 3, Objective 1)***

**You and 4 college friends have reunited after 10 years for a vacation to sail the Caribbean. You have booked a 48’ schooner with an experienced captain who is serving as your expert navigator, guide, and seaman. You and your college friends are working as the crew. An unexpected and severe hurricane has combined in the Caribbean to place you in harms way. Heavy rain and high winds have wrecked your schooner on the rocky shoals 1 mile off the coast of the uninhabited island of Tarranga. The ship’s captain has been blown overboard and presumably drowned, and one of your friends has suffered a broken leg. The ship is quickly breaking up and sinking. You and your friends must make your way to Tarranga, the nearest side of which has a rocky shore with high surf and abrupt mountainous cliffs. The other side of the island is covered with lush vegetation. Before the captain had disappeared, he had explained that an inter-island freighter would stop by the island once every 30 days. As the ship is breaking up and quickly going into the deep, you and your friends have only 12 minutes to choose 10 of the following 25 items to take with you in priority of importance, before you swim to shore. Your choices will determine the survivability of your group until you are rescued.**

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**Choose 10 of the following 25 items in priority of importance:**

**1. 1 box of band-aids**

**2. 1 spear gun**

**3. 1 disposable camera**

**4. 1 hammer**

**5. 1 can of sardines**

**6. A 10’ x 16’ plastic tarp**

**7. 1 box of nails**

**8. 1 first aid kit**

**9. 1 jar of peanut butter**

**10. 1 roll of duct tape**

**11. 1 working flashlight**

**12. A megaphone**

**13. A sexton and compass**

**14. A pair of binoculars**

**15. 1 flare gun with one flare**

**16. A map of the Caribbean**

**17. A box of waterproof matches**

**18. 8 empty 5 gallon plastic bottles with handles**

**19. A box of candles**

**20. A seaman’s knife**

**21. A Hershey’s candy bar**

**22. 100 feet of heavy rope**

**23. A sewing kit**

**24. 1 broom**

**25. 1 can of corn**

**Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Prioritize your 10 selections below:**

**1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Instructions***

**Hand out Page 1 to each member of groups of 3-5 managers. Give the groups 3 minutes to read the exercise, then collect page one, and hand out Page 2. Give the groups 12 minutes to discuss and make their selections of 10 prioritized items. The groups should be made up of peers without supervisors. Observe the group dynamics and interaction. The value of the exercise is to demonstrate that there is strength in numbers in decision making. The group will usually make better decisions that one individual alone. This is a demonstration of “*Participatory Management.”* Determining the correct answers isn’t as important as what the group learns from the decision process.**

***Key***

**1. 100 feet of heavy rope (for tying together the plastic bottles, and for**

**scaling the mountain cliffs)**

**2. 8 empty 5 gallon plastic bottles with handles (for floatation for the**

**swim to shore, and for fresh water storage on the island)**

**3. A box of waterproof matches (for building fires for heat, cooking, and**

**signal fires)**

**4. A sewing kit (for fishing hooks and line)**

**5. A can of corn (use empty can cooking over the fire, and use corn for**

**bait)**

**6. 1 roll of duct tape (for bracing splint for friend with broken leg, and for**

**building shelter on island)**

**7. A 16’ x 10’ plastic tarp (to be used to collect rain water, and for shelter)**

**8. 1 seaman’s knife (for building shelter, cutting rope, and food**

**preparation)**

**9. 1 broom (for use as splint and for fishing poll)**

**10. 1 pair of binoculars (for observation of passing ships and planes)**