

## Texas Search & Rescue Vest

I have a vest that holds those items I frequently need in a SAR mission. This vest also serves, along with a large camelback serves as my urban search pack. A commercial vest, G.I. Surplus survival vest or G.I. web gear will work for this purpose nicely. Each pocket of the vest holds a like group or 'kit' for a specific purpose:

### Survival

Plastic bivy sack	2 Lg. leaf bag	50' of 550 cord	Matches/CandleFirestarter
Duct tape	Toilet paper	Signal mirror	Pocketknife
20' of 8lb test fishing line		Water purification tablets	
5' of 14 ga. electrical wire			

### Navigation

Compass	GPS	Trail tape
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### First Aid Kit

Razor blade	Personal meds	Aspirin	2 Alcohol wipes
1 Towelette	1 cravet	2" adhesive tape	Antiseptic ointment
3" Ace wrap	two 2x2's	4 benadryl tablets	Sm. Battle Dressing
Antacids	Mole skin	2 alcohol prep pads	Safety pins
2" Roller gauze	Tweezers	6 Band-aids	2 cotton swabs
Couple of quaters	Safety pins	Splinter forceps	Various J-tubes
Pocket mask	Trauma scissors	Exam gloves	
6 Pepto Bismal tablets			

### Incidentals

Headlamp/Flashlight	Extra batteries	Measuring tape	Sunscreen
Insect repellent	Binocs	2 Cylume sticks	Lip balm
Bandana	Goggles	4 zip lock bags	Pad & pencil
2 Powerbars	2 Gu's	Roll of Lifesavers	

All of the following 'kits' & 'bags' (in bold highlight) are packed into individual stuff sacks. A good idea to save time is to mark on the stuff sacks what the contents are along with your name & phone number. Gear like carabiners can be marked with colored plastic tape. Sorting gear after a mission goes much faster & easier when equipment is marked.

### Clothes Bag

Hiking boots	Team shirt	Blue field pants	Spandex shorts
Wide brim hat	Gaiters	Orange shirt	Blue shorts
Anti-fog cleansing fluid	Retaining strap	Panic necklace	

### Personal Bag

extra pair of socks	Emergency blanket	20' of webbing	Head over
Extra glasses	helmet	50' of 550 cord	Camera
small trowel	Poncho	12 hrs food (see below)	

Wet Weather bag	Cold Weather bag	G/T parka	Pile jacket
Bomber hat	B/P cuff	G/T pants	Pile pants
Sweater	Stethoscope	Rain hat	2 pr sticky gloves
2 pr glove liners	winter gloves	2 pr socks & liners	

### Tech kit #1

Harness (2x5' 2x10')	4 locking biners	MPM pulley	Slings (2x10' 2x 20') Prusiks
	Ascending system	Brake Bar rack	Work gloves

### Tech Kit #2

4 locking biners	Rescue pulley w/ biner	1/2 set of Tri-cams	1/2 set of stoppers
4 M/R links	Runners (2x20' 4x10')	Prusiks (2x5' 2x10')	
PMP pulley w/ biner/prusiks			

### Wilderness Trauma kit

6" Ace wrap	4 Small Battle Dressings	2 Med. Battle Dressings
1 Lg. Battle Dressings	Extraction collar	2 SAM splints
4 cravets	IV set	4-6 4x4's gauze
4 Roller Gauze	Non- Prescription pain meds	Oral Glucose
Bee Sting kit		

### Rope bag

50' of 8mm rope	3 HMS biners	Prusiks (1x5', 1x10")
1 Tri-link	12' of webbing	1 M/R link

### Overnight Bivy Bag

G/T bivy sack	Rain fly	50' of 550 cord	4 tent stakes
Toothbrush/paste	pkg. of baby wipes	Spandex shorts	

12 hrs. Food	24 hrs. food		
6 Power bars	Canteen cup	Hex heater	1 MRE
3 GU's	3 pkgs. fruit & nuts	2 rolls of lifesavers	3 Meal bars
	3 MRE Beverage pkgs	1 MRE spoon	

### Warmie bag

Lt. Poly-pro underwear	2x sticky gloves	2x glove liners	G/T gloves
Fleece balaclava	Sweater	Field Jacket liner	

Ok, we now have all these 'kits' & 'bags' . What do I do with them now? First, determine what you need & what you want. The 'need' items go into your pack & the 'want' items go into a duffle bag. I use an Army duffle bag for this.

Keep them together at home or in your car. When the pager goes off, take the pack & the duffle with you. When you get to the rendezvous, Operations or base camp, find out what the situation is & repack your rescue pack by transferring the unneeded items out of the pack & into the duffle bag or vice versa very quickly.

This system also saves time & eliminates forgetting anything if you have to car pool with someone or you're going out of town on an out-of-county mission. The following is how I have my gear packed so that if I have to carpool, or go out-of-county, it will only take me less than five minutes to transfer everything needed from my truck to someone else's car without forgetting anything.

**Rescue Pack**

Day pack	Personal bag	6 Qts. water	Wet weather gear
Vest	B/P kit	Tracking stick	Helmet
Sm. Ensolite pad	Camelback	6 Qts. water	Rope bag
M.U.L.E.			

**Duffle bag**

Clothes bag	Hiking boots	Wide Brim hat	Maps
Trauma kit	Overnight bivy kit	Poncho liner	24 hrs food
Tech kit #1	Tech kit #2	Cold Weather bag	

**Base Camp Duffle**

The Base Camp Duffle bag is for those missions will be on a multi-day mission, out-of-county, or even out-of-state. It's for living in a Base Camp set up or just Car camping. It's not a mandatory item required by the Team. It's something I've learned by experience & it lives in the back of my truck just in case I get stranded somewhere.

**Base Camp Duffle**

Sleeping bag	Sleeping pad	Four Season Tent	3 days of food
Stove/ cook kit	AWOL Bag	Personal First Aid Kit	Emergency Kit
Toiletries	Reading matter		

**Search & Rescue In Colorado & Arizona**

Obviously, SAR missions in Colorado are not all like SAR missions in Texas. I still get a kick out of the Texans when they say they have mountains in Texas. I guess that's why you see a lot of cars with Texas license plates on I-70 in the winter in Colorado. Anyway, here is an old list of the equipment, & how it was packed when I was playing with the MRA teams there. Actually, there is little difference from the list for Colorado & Arizona. One would think that Arizona is just desert, but right outside of Tucson is a mountain range with an elevation of +8,000' with a ski resort! The highest elevation in Arizona is over 12,000':

**Vest**

Strobe light	Binocs	Plastic bivy bag	compass
headlamp/flashlight	extra batteries	Fire starter	matches
measuring tape	Signal mirror	Sunscreen	Trail tape
whistle	bandana	lip balm	50' of 550 cord

**Warmie bag #1**

Headcover	extra glasses
rain hat	1 pr glove liners

**Warmie bag #2**

Mt. pants (pile)	G-T Parka
Pile sweater	G-T overpants

1 pr sticky gloves

1 pr socks/liners

Gaiters

**Warmie bag #3 (combined with #1 in winter) Warmie bag #4 (used above timberline)**

VBL socks

Bomber hat

Pile jacket

Overboots

Overmitts

1 pr winter gloves

Synthetic jacket

Pile shirt

2 pr glove liners

face mask

Pile bibs

G-T overbibs

1 pr winter gloves

2 pr socks/liners

**Personal bag #1**

1 Qt. Gorp

Lg. Plastic bag

**Diagnostic kit**

Notebook/pencil

Scapel

Poncho

40' of 1" webbing

Suction device

Trauma scissors

50' of 550 cord

Space blanket

B/P cuff

Stethoscope

Folding saw

flashlight

2 pr exam gloves

NP airways

Oral airways

Lube jelly

Pocket mask

**Small First aid kit**

Tweezers

Band-aids

**Mt First Aid kit**

Asprin

Antacid

2 cravets

Ace Bandage

Antihistamines

Band-aids

Four 4x4's

Sm. Battle Dressing

Butter-fly

Sm. Battle Dressing

2" adhesive tape

Moleskin

Moleskin

Scapel

Asprin

Personal meds

antibacterial cream

Scissors

wire splint

Safety pins

Tweezers

roller gauze

Six 4x4's

2 cravets

Ace wrap

Sam splint

2" adhesive tape

**Wilderness Trauma kit**

6" Ace wrap

4 Small Battle Dressings

2 Med. Battle Dressings

1 Lg. Battle Dressings

Extraction collar

2 SAM splints

4 cravets

IV set

4-6 4x4's gauze

4 Roller Gauze

Non- Prescription pain meds

Oral Glucose

Bee Sting kit

**Tech kit #1**

Rescue Harness

**Tech Kit #2**

4 HMS biners

**Mt. Tech Kit**

Mt. harness

2 pickets

Helmet w/ goggles

Rescue pulley

2 Deadman

2 pulleys

Slings (2x10', 1x20')

Pick-off strap

Mt. ice axe (70cm)

ice axe

Prusiks (2x5', 2x10')

Mitchell system

Ice hammer

2 ice screws

Mini Acending system

4 M/R's

2 ice pitons

belay device

Descender

9 runners (6x10', 3x20')

2 lg. runners (2x20')

Ascend system

PMP pulley w/ pruskis

4 shirt runners (4x10')

6 HMS biners

4 HMS biners

Prusiks (2x5', 2x10')

Work gloves

**Rope bag**

50' of 8mm rope  
1 Tri-link

3 HMS biners  
12' of webbing

Prusiks (1x5', 1x10")  
1 M/R link

**Rescue Rations**

6 Power bars  
1 pk Fruit bits  
1 gatoraide pkg  
1 MRE w/ heater  
2 ERG's  
1 Gatorload mix  
6 Gu's

Breakfast  
Oatmeal  
Dried fruit  
2 Cliff bars  
ERG mix

**3 Day Alpine Rations**

Lunch	Dinner
Jerky	F-D meal
Dried fruit	2 Cliff bars
Gatoraide or	2 Cocoa mix
Exceed	Carbo load mix
	Candy bar

**Stove/Cook Kit**

Whisperlite stove  
Matches  
Plastic spoon  
Insulated cup

MSR Stove stand  
Stove repair kit  
2-3 Gatoraide packets

1 Qt. Fuel  
1 1/2 Qt pot w/ lid  
2-3 Instant cup-o-soups

**Rescue pack  
(Spring/Summer)**

Vest  
Warmie bag 1  
Personal bag 1  
Rope bag  
4 qts water  
Mt. Aid kit  
Diagnostic kit  
Tech kit #1  
Tech kit #2  
ensolite pad  
Rescue Rations  
G-T bivy sack

**Rescue Pack (Winter)**

Vest  
Warmie bag 1  
Warmie bag 2  
Warmie bag 3  
Personal bag 1  
4 Qts water  
Mt. Aid kit  
Dignostic kit  
Ensolite pad  
Stove/cook kit  
Rescue rations  
G-T bivy sack  
Rope bag  
Tech kit #1  
Tech kit #2

**Hasty/Urban pack  
(Quick in/out)**

Vest  
Warmie bag 1  
Personal bag 1  
2 qts water  
Sm First aid kit

**HART pack  
(High Altitude Rescue Team)**

Vest  
Warmie bag 1  
Warmie bag 2  
Warmie bag 3  
Warmie bag 4  
Personel bag 1  
4 qt. water  
Mt. aid kit  
Diagnostic kit  
Plastic boots  
Sleeping bag  
Avalanche beacon  
Snow saw  
Ski poles  
Snowshoes  
Crampons  
4 season tent  
Stove/cook set  
Snow shovel  
3 day rations  
Mt. Tech kit  
Sleeping pad  
G-T bivy sack

**Duffle bag**

G/T bivy sack  
Cook set  
Water filter  
Mt. Tech kit  
snow saw

Stove/accessories  
Sleeping pad  
Warmie bag #2  
Plastic boots  
snow shoes

Alpine rations  
4 Season Tent  
Warmie bag #3  
Crampons  
ski poles

Down Sleeping bag  
Tracking stick  
Warmie bag #4  
Snow shovel