

# Paratus Survival

## Key Elements of Survival Scenarios

### Part 2

***Predictable path of travel-*** When stranded in the ocean, it is somewhat easy to predict a person's path of travel by identifying the tidal direction at the last known location. The key to this is obviously dependent on the survivor staying with their survival craft- the raft. On land, however, when some one gets lost they begin to wander in unpredictable patterns that can make rescue forecasting very difficult. They are physically not tied to a raft and begin setting out to find their way home. It then becomes a psychological gamble trying to anticipate which direction a disoriented person will travel, which, as we have previously discussed is nearly impossible because rational thought is often set aside when a person is scared and disoriented. So how do we as survivors help rescuers predict our path of travel? STOP moving and stay with the RAFT!

### ***Stop and Float-***

**S**-Sit and Think

**T**-Take inventory

**O**-Observe and Orient

**P**-Prepare for Rescue

From the operations perspective (both on land and on water), once a rescue attempt has begun, sufficient resources becomes the major limiting factor (LIMFAC) and will usually shape the execution of the rescue attempt. Said another way, the approach to finding someone in the woods will drastically change depending on the number of people available. Do we have 5 people or 50? Do we have air support or a communications team or search dogs or . . .? The list goes on, but the point is that you as the survivor want to make the job of the rescuers as easy as possible.

How do you do that? Well, most rescue attempts begin with the survivor's last known position. What trail were you on? What lake were you fishing at? The rescue resources are then divided and allocated to search a specific area. Once the initial search party has covered a particular area, chances are that they won't cover that area again for quite a while, if ever. A moving target is always more difficult to hit, and as a survivor, if you wander into an area that has already been searched, you severely reduce your chances of a successful rescue. Typically the resources just are not available to re-search an area multiple times. The **RAFT Survival System** concentrates your efforts and resources on becoming a stationary target. It's time for some R&R and some quiet time alone in the woods. Stop, relax, float (conserve your energy), and let the rescuers come to you.