**Overview - Group Survival Scenario Exercise**

* Consensus can be hard to reach, however, set the aim for all participants to at least partially agree to each ranking on their final list.
* Encourage groups to complete the task without the use of tactics such as voting, trading in or averaging.
* Watch for participants avoiding conflict or changing their minds simply to come to agreement. Highlight these kinds of behaviors in when you debrief
* Watch for over emphasis by some participants on needing 100% accurate answers. Steer the group towards the aim of the exercise which is heightening awareness of communication and decision making processes, rather than over emphasis on 'getting the answers exactly right'. Display of this need is a point of observation and one worthy of debrief.

**Scenario 1: Choose Survival Equipment**

*Your plane crashed...your group needs to choose the 12 most useful items to survive...*

Choose / rank ***equipment*** items in terms of their relative survival value:

* Participants choose/rank the items individually
* Discuss choices/rankings in small group and come to a group consensus
* Score answers against "expert" opinion
* Possible scenarios:
  + Lost at sea or island survival (shipwreck)
  + Desert (plane crash)

**Scenario 2: People Survival Scenario (Who will be saved?)**

*A nuclear bomb has been dropped...a radiation-free shelter is available, but can only take 6 people; choose who will survive...*

Choose / rank ***people*** in terms of who will get to live or die in situations with limited survival resources:

* Participants role play characters (a bit like a Murder Mystery)
* Can lead to high emotions; people get intensely engaged, particularly when choosing who will survive, and none of the decisions are easy.
* No right answers - any so-called "correct" answers are based on debatable values (e.g., ageism, sexism, racism)
* Highlights individual's dispositions, group processes and decision making
* Possible scenarios:
  + Plane crash survivors
  + Nuclear war shelter
  + Oxygen dwindling (space, moon, mars)
  + Lifeboat / Sinking ship (sea)

**Possible Debrief Questions**

* How were decisions made?
* Who influenced the decisions and how?
* How could better decisions have been made?
* Did people listen to each other? if not why not?
* What roles did group members adopt?
* How was conflict managed?
* What kinds of behavior helped or hindered the group?
* How did people feel about the decisions?
* How satisfied was each person with the decision (ask each participant to rate his / her satisfaction out of 10, then obtain a group average and compare / discuss with other groups' satisfaction levels)
* What have you learnt about the functioning of this group?
* How would you do the activity differently if you were asked to do it again?
* What situations at work/home/school do you think are like this exercise?