

## If the tropics are out, try winter preparedness

When you climb into your car, whether to drive to work or travel halfway across the country, assume the weather will do its worst—and be prepared for it.

"A lot of problems arise when people drive in the winter in street clothes with no back-up gear in case they get stuck," says Dr. Paul Risk, assistant professor of park and recreation resources at Michigan State University. "The weather can change drastically in a short period of time. If you get caught in it on the road without warm clothes and other survival essentials, you could be in big trouble."

Risk, who teaches classes in wilderness survival, practices what he preaches about preparedness. He does a lot of driving in the winter and never sets out without heavy boots, extra socks, heavy wool pants and sweater, a parka, a knitted cap and knitted gloves. It's not unusual to find a pair

of snowshoes in his trunk.

Even the weekend vacationer should take precautions, Risk notes.

He equips his car with snow tires and chains, so he's never been stuck on the road. If he should get stranded, he could use his CB radio to call for help. For people who do get caught by the weather, he has some basic survival tips.

"When the snow is blowing by so thick that you can't see the front end of your car, it's no time to be out hiking around," he advises. "Stay with your car and use the heater to keep warm as long as your gas holds out. Be sure to open a couple windows a crack to prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide in the vehicle."

"If the car gets drifted over, turn the motor off. Carbon monoxide trapped by the snow will build up under the car and seep inside. The snow will insulate the car against the wind and keep what heat there is

inside from escaping rapidly."

If your car isn't covered with snow and your gasoline runs out so you can no longer use the heater, establish some kind of dry shelter nearby. Burrow into a snowdrift and line your "cave" with upholstery and mats from the car. Or seek a sheltered spot in a stand of trees or thick brush. Stay near the car, even if you can't stay in it, he advises, unless you can see and get to a nearby house or other building. Rescuers who find your car will begin looking for you nearby.

The aim of establishing shelter is to keep you warm, dry and out of the wind, Risk explains.

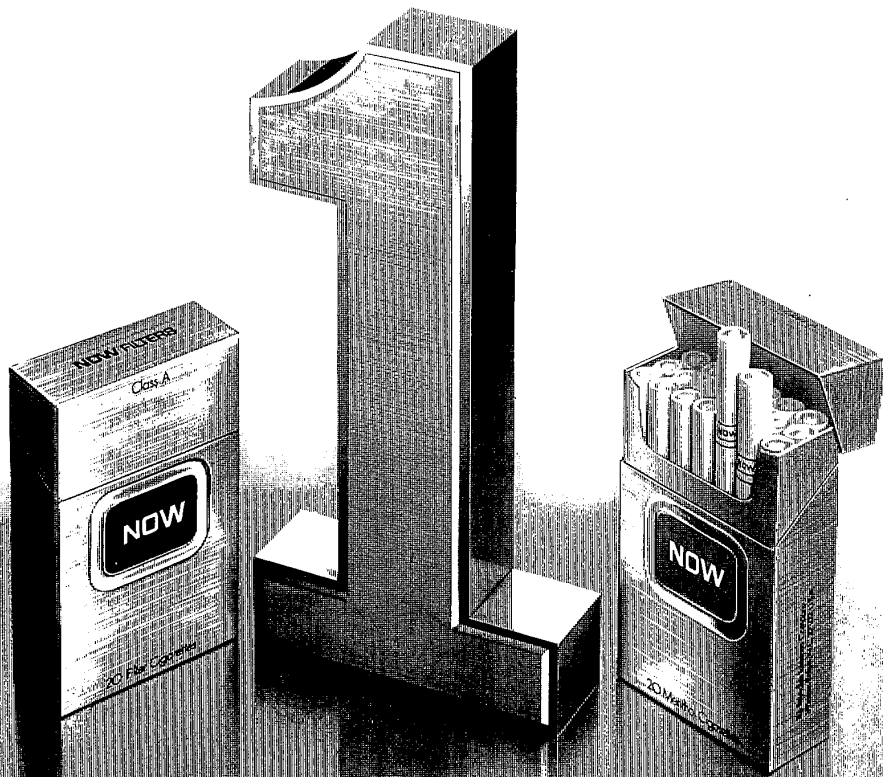
Be sure always to carry some matches in a waterproof container for fire building, a pocket knife and a whistle, he advises. The fire will help keep you warm and dry and, along with the whistle, can be used to signal for help. With a knife you can shave wood for kindling, cut brightly colored

fabric into strips to lay on the snow as a signal to anyone flying over your position or perform almost any other cutting task you may have to do.

With shelter—including appropriate clothing—a fire, a means of signalling for help and plenty of water—in the form of melted snow—you are in good shape to hold out until rescue comes. Be sure to melt the snow. Eating a lot of snow can chill you.

"The key to getting by in this kind of situation is to stay calm," Risk says. "There's nothing to be gained and everything to lose by leaving your car to go blundering around in the weather, especially if you're not dressed for it. Do everything you can to avoid getting stuck, but if it happens, don't panic. Sit tight, use your head and assure yourself that you can and will get out of the situation OK. You may be pretty uncomfortable for a while, but chances are you will come out of it alive."

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## Bassett honored

Leslie Bassett, University of Michigan professor of music, was recently named as the Albert A. Stanley Distinguished University Professor.

Prof. Bassett, chairman of the composition department, has been on the U-M faculty since 1952. His compositions have been performed by virtually every major American symphony orchestra. Both his orchestral and chamber works have been performed throughout the major capitals of Europe.

His "Variations for Orchestra" received the 1966 Pulitzer Prize and his "Sextet for Piano and Strings" was awarded the Naumburg Foundation Recording Award in 1974. Among his other honors are a Prix de Rome (1961-63), an award and citation from the National Institute of Arts and Letters (1961), and an award from the National Council on the Arts and Humanities (1966-67).

Prof. Bassett has been awarded commissions from the National

Endowment for the Arts, the Koussevitzky Foundation in the Library of Congress, the New York State Music Association, and the Music Teachers National Association.

"Prof. Bassett is recognized by his colleagues in the School of Music as a dedicated and challenging teacher of composition," Harold T. Shapiro, U-M vice-president for academic affairs, said. "His impact as a teacher can be demonstrated by the fact that students from throughout the United States and several foreign countries seek admission to the composition program at the U-M. Without any question, admission to the composition department is the most competitive of any department within the School of Music."

Bassett attended schools in Fresno and the Fresno State College. Following World War II, his composition studies brought him to the U-M for graduate work with Ross Lee Finney.

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