



# OUTBACK INSURANCE

**THE ESEE ADVANCED SURVIVAL KIT IS A COMPLETE, VERSATILE AND CUSTOMIZABLE COMPANION FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY STEVEN PAUL BARLOW

**T**he reason I don't normally carry ready-made survival kits is simple: Most of them are junk.

Gear that breaks or that simply fails to perform in a critical situation is not only disheartening; it can cost you your life. Many pre-assembled kits compromise on quality for the sake of compactness or cost.

There are exceptions. A notable one is the ESEE Advanced Survival Kit, designed by the experts at Randall's Adventure & Training. I got my hands on one recently and found that it is a high-quality, thoughtfully conceived and very complete package.

### ALL-IMPORTANT COOK POT

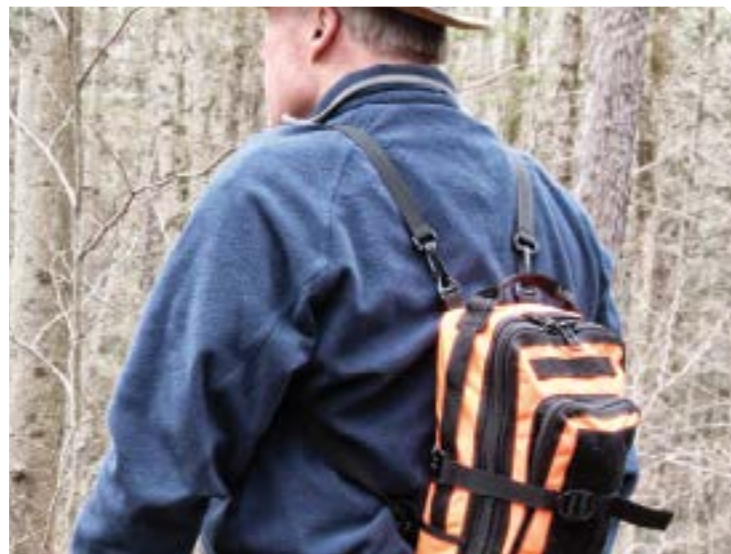
I've always assembled my own kits with gear I've tested in hard use. A key component of those kits has always been a cook pot with a lid that serves as a hard-sided container to house and protect the smaller items of the kit.

The ESEE Advanced Kit comes in a large

Cordura pouch, available in either orange or olive drab. It includes detachable straps that can be rigged so the kit can be carried as a backpack or shoulder bag. There are MOLLE gear-attachment points to add gear as needed.

As with my own kits, the centerpiece of this kit is the company's Mess Tin Kit, which is also available separately. It has a lid and handle, and it, too, is packed with essential survival gear.

> The ESEE Advanced Survival Kit comes with detachable straps that can be configured so the kit can be carried as a shoulder pouch or backpack. MOLLE attachment points allow for further customization.



> Below: The ESEE Advanced Survival Kit is packed with top-quality gear that addresses all the basic needs for survival.



**“... THE ESEE ADVANCED SURVIVAL KIT, DESIGNED BY THE EXPERTS AT RANDALL'S ADVENTURE & TRAINING ... IS A HIGH-QUALITY, THOUGHTFULLY CONCEIVED AND VERY COMPLETE PACKAGE.”**

Of course, the tin is more than just a container; it is an important piece of gear: It gives you the ability to boil water for purification. It also allows you to prepare soups and stews with any wild edibles you gather to get the most food value out of them. In addition, the tin provides a way to keep hot fluids in you to stave off hypothermia.

### A VERY COMPLETE KIT

There is duplication built into this kit that can help ensure your success in several critical areas. For fire starting, there's a large fire steel (ferrocium rod) and striker. But the kit also contains waterproof matches and a Fresnel lens as other fire-making options.

To catch and hold a spark, there is a pack of Tinder-Quik fire tabs. For more-challenging conditions, there are also two packs of Utility Flame gel that light easily and burn for about 15 minutes each.

Included in the kit is an ESEE-4P, which is a great all-around, fixed-blade knife. There is also a Victorinox Hiker folding knife in the mess tin. Among its tools is a wood saw. The kit also includes a pocket wire saw.

Many items in the kit are designed for double duty. For instance, there is a 5x5-foot orange tarp with loops around the edges to run line. You can use the tarp to rig a shelter, signal for help or fashion it into a bag with the snaps along its edges. There are quart-sized plastic bags to serve as containers for water or wild edibles and large, 45-gallon trash bags that can be stuffed with insulating material. They are bright yellow and can also be used for signaling.

There's a 25-foot coil of heavy-duty rope and a carabiner that can be used to rappel short, steep distances or rig the tarp into a shelter. Included also are a 30-foot length of small cord and 100-foot spool of trip line for additional cordage.



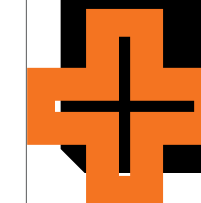
# ESEE ADVANCED SURVIVAL KIT

- < Cordura kit bag, orange or OD
- < Detachable map case
- < Fishing kit in small tin
- < H bandage
- < Navigation and survival cards in small tin
- < ESEE 4P knife
- < 2 quick-disconnect keyrings
- < 4 1-quart water bags
- < 2 survival blankets (orange/silver)
- < 25 feet of 8mm load-rated Prusik rope
- < 24 kiloNewton (kN) load-rated carabiner
- < Yalumi dual 4012 headlight
- < 2 yellow 45-gallon trash bags
- < Orange tarp/bag with snaps, 60x60 inches

## MESS TIN

(with handle and cover and secured with heavy-duty rubber bands)

- < Snare wire
- < Tinder-Quik fire tabs
- < Rapid Rescue orange whistle
- < Pocket wire saw
- < Duct tape
- < Fresnel lens
- < 30 feet of small cordage
- < Pencil
- < Rite in the Rain notepad
- < 2 Brite Strike green APALS lights
- < Potable Aqua water-purification tablets
- < Victorinox Hiker Knife
- < Suunto A10 compass
- < Waterproof matches
- < Emergency signal mirror
- < 2 Utility Flame packets
- < Large fire steel (ferrocium rod) with striker
- < 100-foot spool of Kevlar trip line



› A fire can go a long way in helping you survive a critical situation. The ESEE kit provides several ways to help you get a fire going.



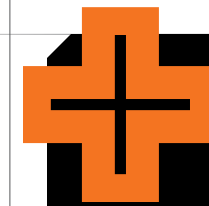
three sets of batteries for lighting in this kit. There are also two APALS lights (all-purpose adhesive light strips) to mark your way in the dark. While they were designed for tactical situations, you can use them if you need to stray a short way from your camp to collect more firewood.

Additional gear includes an H-bandage trauma dressing, pencil and Rite in the Rain notepad. There are two quick-detach key rings to secure gear or rig triggers for certain types of traps. Also inside are two needles and a Cordura patch, duct tape for repairs and a bottle of Potable Aqua water-purification tablets.

#### CUSTOMIZE IT

All of this is jam packed into the pouch, which weighs about 5 pounds. Add much more gear to it, and it will become a camping outfit instead of a survival kit!

Still, the kit is designed to be customizable. I would suggest adding a few small items—namely a small .22 pistol, such as the North American Arms Sidewinder. I'd also add ammo, a couple of disposable lighters, a smaller secondary compass, tube of antiseptic ointment and a few adhesive bandages. I might also strap a water bottle to the outside of the kit.



## RANDALL'S ADVENTURE & TRAINING

Jeff Randall and Mike Perrin have been running Randall's Adventure & Training for about 20 years. They conduct intense jungle survival training in South America and host many other survival and rescue courses in Alabama. Special military and law enforcement units, members of search-and-rescue teams and others who trek in dangerous places have long relied on the group's expertise.

Questions about how to be properly equipped always come up in these training sessions. To address these, the group eventually decided to market its own top-quality gear, including its highly regarded line of ESEE knives. All gear is extensively tested in the prototype stage before it is offered for sale.

For additional information about these courses, contact [www.RandallsAdventure.com](http://www.RandallsAdventure.com).



› Within the Cordura pouch is a mess tin with a handle and cover. The tin is an important part of the kit, because it can be used to boil water to purify it for cooking, as well as keep your body heated with warm fluids.

Besides all the bright-colored gear to attract rescuers, there's a signal mirror and a whistle. For self-rescue, there's a detachable map case and a full-sized Suunto A10 compass.

To procure food, the kit contains a small tin stocked with fishing gear (hooks, lures, floats, sinkers, line), as well as a length of snare wire. Another small tin contains navigation and survival cards with key information covering the basics for emergency situations. Either of those small tins can be configured for use in making char cloth.

You will discover a headlamp and



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› The kit includes a large, top-quality fire steel that can be used to light hundreds of fires—provided you have suitable tinder.



› One small tin in the kit contains fishing gear that includes line, floats, hooks, sinkers, several lures and bait.

**“WHEN YOUR SURVIVAL IS ON THE LINE, THAT’S NOT THE TIME TO COMPROMISE ON QUALITY FOR THE SAKE OF ECONOMY.”**



◀ The ESEE Advanced Survival Kit is the perfect addition to any off-road vehicle—truck, snowmobile or ATV—and can be a lifesaver for anyone who might become stranded in out-of-the-way places.

**“THIS ESEE ADVANCED KIT—OR EVEN THE MESS TIN KIT COMPONENT, ALONE—WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO ANY OFF-ROAD VEHICLE, SNOWMOBILE, ATV OR BUSH PLANE AND COULD BE A LIFESAVER ...”**

#### SOURCE

- › ESEE KNIVES  
(256) 613-0372
- › WWW.ESEEKNIVES.COM

#### THE KIT IN USE

I took the kit to the woods to “set up camp.” The kit stores easily in a trunk or under a car seat and carries easily with the provided adjustable straps.

I used the rope to string the tarp between two trees as a shelter. Inside, I placed the trash bags as a ground cloth and placed the emergency blankets on top. Had I decided to spend the night, I would have stuffed those trash bags with dry leaves for insulation.

The ESEE-4P knife worked well at preparing my kindling, as well as sharpening stakes to secure the tarp, clearing my site of eye-poking branches and other cutting chores. I started a fire in short order with the fire steel and one Tinder-Quik tab. The mess tin provided in the kit served as a stable platform to place over hot coals for cooking.

The wire saw worked well. As long as each side of these saws is pulled at an equal angle—not pulling one end off to the side—a surprising amount of cutting chores can be accomplished without risk of snapping the wire.

All in all, there wasn’t a point at which I felt I was lacking any gear I really needed.

#### QUALITY GEAR IS IMPORTANT

When your survival is on the line, that’s not the time to compromise on quality for the sake of economy. The ESEE Advanced Survival Kit is not cheap at its suggested retail price of \$710, although I suspect the “real-world” price will be much less.

Being prepared can take the “emergency” status out of many unexpected situations, and good gear is essential when the odds are stacked against you. It can also provide a measure of confidence and help keep the stress of a bad situation from building up to panic levels.

This ESEE Advanced Kit—or even just the Mess Tin Kit component—would be a great addition to any off-road vehicle, snowmobile, ATV or bush plane and could be a lifesaver if you were ever stranded and on your own. **ASG**

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