

SURVIVAL PAPER

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Coat Pocket Survival

By Jim Jones

There are all kinds of "survival kits" There are big tote bin kits for the home emergency, survival backpacks for when you need to head for the hills, survival kits for the belt, purse or briefcase. But no survival kit will help you if you don't have it with you when you need it most. There are four very inexpensive items that should always be in your pockets. These are the "very least" you should have with you "just in case". The **first** item is a pack of common safety matches or a butane lighter. This is the only case where smokers have a survival advantage. Yes, waterproof camp matches are better but the box is bulky and you may not want to have them in every coat and pair of pants you have. The **second** item is a few paper napkins. These are always handy, cheap and have many emergency applications. **Third** is a small plastic sandwich bag. The bigger the bag the better but we are talking about your pockets not a backpack. **Finally** have a few heavy-duty rubber bands. You can distribute these items throughout your pockets so you hardly know they are there. There is nothing here that should cause any problems going through security inspections. Here are just a few of the emergency uses for these items:

MATCHES

- 20 chances to make a fire
- 20 emergency flairs or on big one
- 20 x 20 second lights

PAPER NAPKINS

- Improvised dust, mist and soot mask
- Improvised water filter
- Wound dressing / blood stopper
- Fire starter / torch
- CPR mask

PLASTIC BAG (small)

- Water container
- Keep matches and wallet dry
- Wound cover
- Eye protection
- Hand cover for blood, etc

RUBBER BANDS (heavy Duty)

- Hold napkins over mouth
- Hold plastic over eyes
- Hold wound dressing in place
- Burn hot and smoky

Of course a few more items would help. Any kind of small pocketknife could be important in a survival emergency. Larger trash pages can be used to protect against wind, rain, and chemical agents and even keep radioactive dust off your clothes. A few Band-Aids are a good pocket item. A small square of folded heavy aluminum foil can also come in hands. But the four items listed are dirt cheap, easy to carry and just enough to give you the survival edge in a number of emergency situations. Don't leave home without them!