

## The Redrock Readiness Newsletter

Episode 8: Don't Be a Fool, Use a Tool!

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“Do not despair. Do not give up. Look for the sunlight through the clouds. Opportunities will eventually open to you.”

--President Gordon B. Hinckley, *The Spirit of Optimism*

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Hi everybody! This week continues our series of useful tools you can keep in your kit. None of these are expensive (heck, one of 'em is free!), but we think you know by now **you can't judge a tool by its price.**

**Work Gloves** (as Pixel covered in our third newsletter) are a huge benefit in case of car troubles--especially in this climate! Trying to touch hot surfaces barehanded is NO BUENO in the summer sun. First and even second-degree burns are possible if you're not mindful of what you're doing. You could get a thick pair for cold weather, and switch it out for a thinner (but still tough!) pair for summer.

**Mechanix** brand is a favorite of Beau's.

**Flashlights** – So versatile we have to talk about them twice. **Flashlights will save your butt** when you're out beyond city limits in the pitch dark with no moon and you need to get things done. Flashlights can help you find your way back to your car, look under the hood or fix a flat. **Once you get one, you'll be shocked how often you wind up using it**, even in day-to-day living.

Danielle: It's true! Before I met Beau, I lived a sad, flashlightless life—but ever since he got me a flashlight of my very own, I can't imagine not having it! I keep it on my keychain so it's with me all the time. So far, I've used it to help me fix an electric pencil sharpener, close up shop at work, navigate a dark parking lot, and locate USB ports in the back of my computer. **I love my tiny flashlight!!**

**Sharpie Markers** let you leave notes on all kinds of surfaces—including windshields and the like—so **you can alert potential rescuers** to where you are sheltering, who you are, etc. You can also **write on the skin of anyone who's been injured**—info like if they have an allergy to certain medications, or the time a tourniquet was applied to a wound.

Danielle: Ever seen the show “I Shouldn't Be Alive”? Ever notice that one of highest priorities of a person in distress is to leave a note for their loved ones? I mean, I saw a guy etching a letter this loved ones with a penknife on the steel seat of a fishing boat. Makes ya think, doesn't it?

**Your own mind.** You'll never have every tool in the world, but guess what? *Your mind is your strongest and most versatile tool.* During any problem, stay optimistic and remember: **you are a resourceful, intelligent human being!** You'll be better served by keeping your **morale up**, your **will strong**, and your

eyes open to **new opportunities and solutions**. It sounds simple but these practices will tip the odds in your favor! Keep an optimistic outlook regardless of how bleak things may appear. Don't let the clouds push out your sun. As the saying goes, it's always darkest right before the dawn.



Until next week, be safe and stay out of trouble! You humans are always wearing holes in your socks, but I never have to worry about that--all four of my socks are permanent. You humans need to fix yours, though--and I know just the thing: a mini-sewing kit! It's just the thing to repair small tears in tents, slices in sleeping bags, or holey coats. In an emergency you can even use it to repair minor tears and holes in **you!** Pour rubbing alcohol over the needle and thread before you use it to patch somebody up!

See ya next time!