

Poncho/Tarp Lean-To

It takes only a short time and minimal equipment to build this lean-to (Figure 5-1). You need a poncho, 2 to 3 meters of rope or parachute suspension line, three stakes about 30 centimeters long, and two trees or two poles 2 to 3 meters apart. Before selecting the trees you will use or the location of your poles, check the wind direction. Ensure that the back of your lean-to will be into the wind.

To reduce heat loss to the ground, place some type of insulating material, such as leaves or pine needles, inside your lean-to.

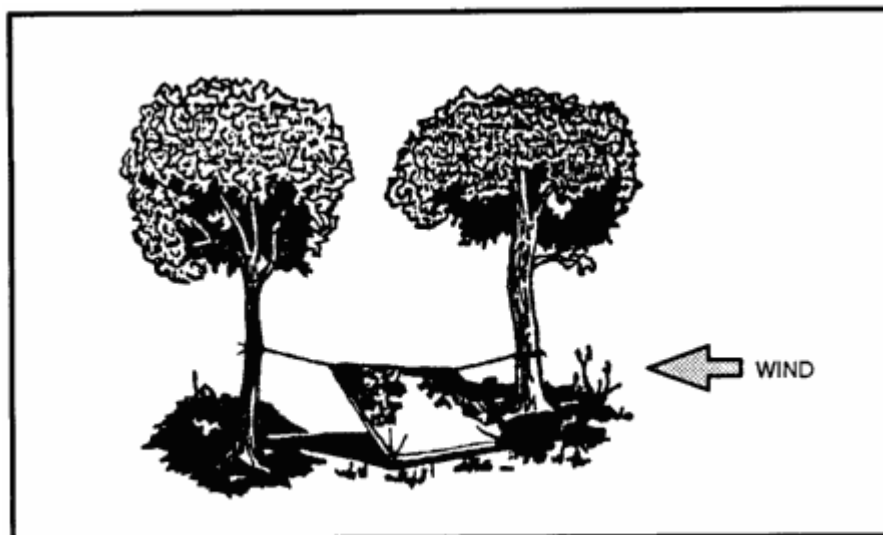


Figure 5-1. Poncho lean-to.

Poncho/Tarp Tent

This tent (Figure 5-2) provides a low silhouette. It also protects you from the elements on two sides. It has, however, less usable space and observation area than a lean-to.

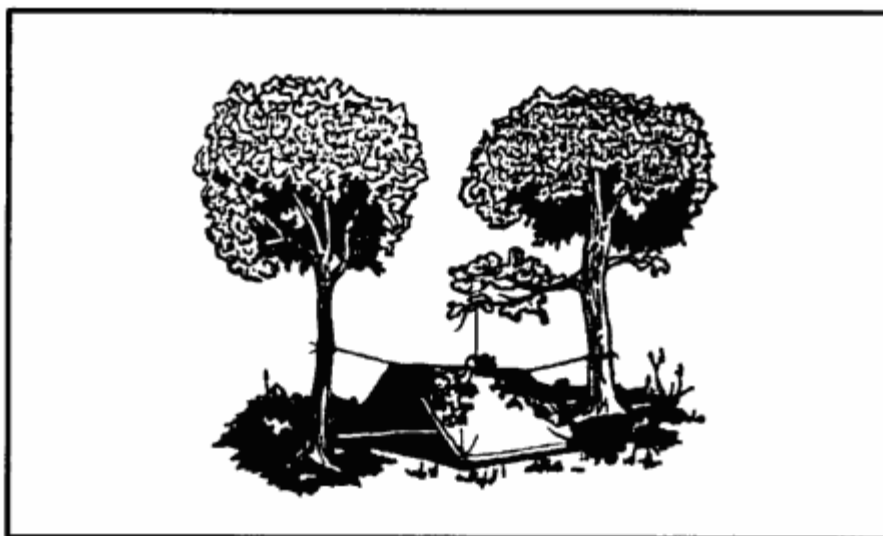


Figure 5-2. Poncho tent using overhanging branch.

One-Man Shelter

A one-man shelter you can easily make using a parachute, poncho, or tarp requires a tree and three poles. One pole should be about 4.5 meters long and the other two about 3 meters long. Be sure to tuck any excess material under to avoid pooling of rainwater.

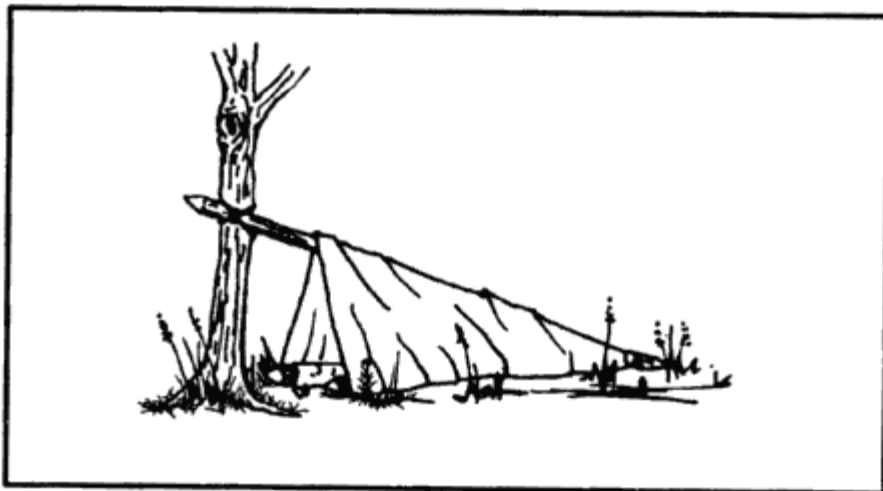


Figure 5-7. One-man shelter.

Swamp Bed

In a marsh or swamp, or any area with standing water or continually wet ground, the swamp bed (Figure 5-10) keeps you out of the water. It also keeps you away from snakes and critters. When selecting such a site, consider the weather, wind, tides, and available materials. To make a swamp bed--

1. Look for four trees clustered in a rectangle, or cut four poles (bamboo is ideal) and drive them firmly into the ground so they form a rectangle. They should be far enough apart and strong enough to support your height and weight, to include equipment.
2. Cut two poles that span the width of the rectangle. They, too, must be strong enough to support your weight.
3. Secure these two poles to the trees (or poles). Be sure they are high enough above the ground or water to allow for tides and high water.
4. Cut additional poles that span the rectangle's length. Lay them across the two side poles, and secure them.
5. Cover the top of the bed frame with broad leaves or grass to form a soft sleeping surface.
6. Build a fire pad by laying clay, silt, or mud on one corner of the swamp bed and allow it to dry.

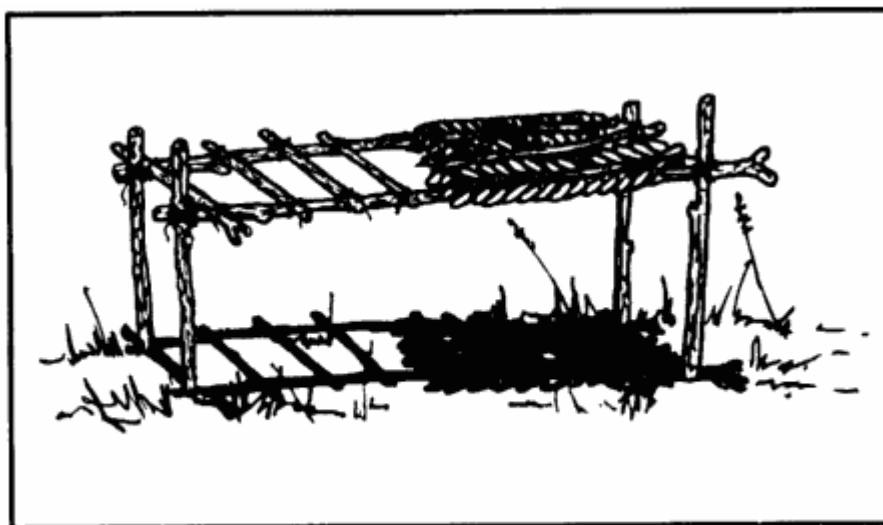


Figure 5-10. Swamp bed.

Based on U.S. Army Field Manual 21-76