SHELTER

T16 SUBMITTENSE 2010

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.

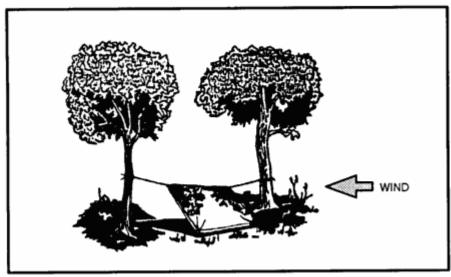


Figure 5-1. Poncho lean-to.

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.

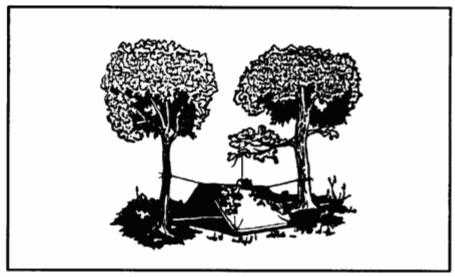


Figure 5-2. Poncho tent using overhanging branch.

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.

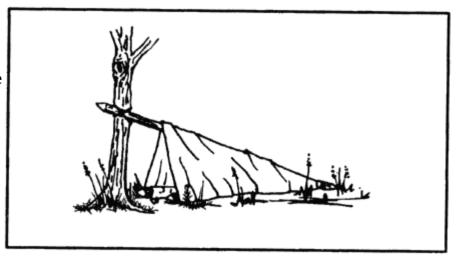


Figure 5-7. One-man shelter.

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 comer of the swamp bed and allow it to dry.

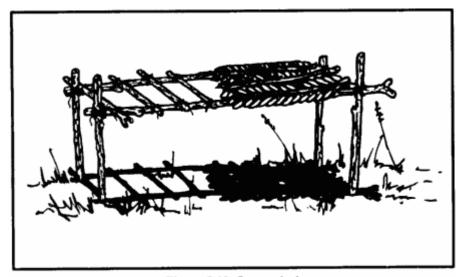


Figure 5-10. Swamp bed.

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