



Fire Starter

Most survival kits include matches. Experts often pack several different kinds of ignition devices in their pockets, including lighter and manual fire starters. In an emergency or otherwise, snowmobilers must consider the possibility of needing a fire for warmth or cooking. My problem with most fire starting devices is that thanks to wet and cold, they are either prone to failure or are too difficult to use. In the latter category, I would include flint and steel, with which I have never succeeded in starting a fire.

So I was pleasantly surprised to discover the StrikeForce™ Fire Starter from Survival Inc. It's an exceptional all-weather fire starting system that combines a special alloy flint bar and a hardened steel striker in one compact, durable casing, weighing less than 4 oz. I was shocked with the result the first time I scraped the striker down the flint. Sparks shot out like a sparkler during a Victoria Day fireworks display. With the StrikeForce Fire Starter, even amateurs like me can start a fire, even when weather conditions are at their worst.

Hot Tip: carry an old 35mm plastic film container packed with Vaseline soaked cotton balls as your tinder. Both the StrikeForce Fire Starter (\$11.95 US)

or the one handed BlastMaster Firer Starter (\$19.95 US) can be found at www.survivalinc.com

Superclamp Update

Based on winter long testing in 2004, I reviewed my first Superclamp Front Tie-Down System, a Canadian made device for securing sled to trailers by their skis (Snow Goer,

Spring 2005, page 45). Last winter, its Calgary-based manufacturer introduced a significant improvement to an already excellent product. With the cost of materials soaring, it was either jack the price or find a viable alternative to metal. The new Superclamp is made of fiber filled thermoplastic, which shaves considerable weight off the previous metal version. Lighter is certainly better, because now my wife, who didn't have the strength to slide the metal Superclamp in from the side of the trailer, can help. I also suspect that the new model may prove more resistant to the elements. The thermoplastic Superclamp incorporates several new design features that make it easier than ever to use. I particularly appreciate the rubber pads to protect the skis when the clamp is tightened. This winter, I'm testing their new thermoplastic Superclamp Rear Tie-Down System and I'll bet that my verdict will remain that this is the best tie down on the market. Front system retails at \$159.95. Click www.sledpro.com

