

## **MakeShift 21: Thomas Slusser's Honorable Mention Entry**

After the crash, you rapidly punch the airbag to deflate it. When it has deflated enough for you to escape, you stuff your cell phone, contents of glove box, and cookies into your briefcase.

You realize that the water is getting dangerously high. You open the door and get out, using only your arms (that week of first aid training tells you that your legs are probably fractured in 2 places). You try to use one arm to swim to shore, using the other to hold up your briefcase. Unfortunately, to get to shore, you have to sacrifice the briefcase to a couple of dips in the river.

When you reach shore, you climb up the bank and lie by the road. Trying to get dry, you make a small shelter in the woods. When your briefcase is opened you realize that your cell phone has suffered some significant water damage. You also wonder why at all you grabbed the driver's manual.

As an avid MAKE magazine reader, to save your cell phone, you go through the steps to reviving a waterlogged cell. Unfortunately, you have to let it air dry. You try to revive your laptop, but it will not turn on. After an hour of waiting, you get your laptop to turn on. No 3G coverage.

You suddenly grab your Swiss army knife and open up your pocket FM radio. You take the circuit board and locate a very high value resistor. You take the driver's manual and rip it up, and find some dry-ish wood nearby. You take a USB cable out of your briefcase and lop an end off. Poor cable. After lamenting the death of the cable you strip off some of the outside with your knife and locate the power and ground. You take the leads from the USB cable and hook them to the resistor. This creates a spark, which lands on the manual. You get a small flame to start, and by the end of the hour, have a small fire going. This gives you

an idea. You rip out the circuit board and locate the receiver. You hook the USB cable to the receiver on your radio (which also doubles as a transmitter). You have time to tap out a short SOS and what road you were on before the transmitter goes up in smoke.

10 minutes later, you realize that a car is coming. They found you! Unfortunately, the man in the car is a 240-pound guy with a handlebar moustache, listening to country music. You find that he has a soft spot for homemade cookies. He helps you into the car and takes you to the hospital, where you recover from your ordeal.

One of your friends brings you a copy of MAKE: Volume 21. When you get to the Makeshift page you suddenly have a feeling of déjà vu....

By Thomas Slusser, age 13