

Equipment Survival Kit!

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Imagine this! You are starting to sweat. Your heart is beating faster. The adrenaline is kicking in. You are totally focused on your game and your students have every eye on you waiting for your direction. Equipment warm-up is only 7 short minutes and you have every moment perfectly planned to make sure your performers have a chance to practice each difficult toss and every challenging combination before stepping foot into the gym. Things are intense and the kids are looking great.

Suddenly you hear a crack and look up to discover a rifle cracked completely in two! How could this happen? Time to panic? NO! Because you have thought ahead. You calmly walk over, take a spare rifle from your Emergency Equipment Bag and all is well and good in the world.

Okay...so things are maybe not quite this dramatic! But little equipment issues crop up all the time from a flag coming untaped during rehearsal to an end cap coming apart or a rifle bolt screw that just won't stay put! It's generally a good idea to put together a small toolbox or backpack of items that will help you to make sure your equipment is always in working order and that any necessary repairs can be done quickly so as not to take time away from an important rehearsal or lead to disappointing performance during a competition. You should also keep an extra set of equipment in a bag that you take along to all performances just in case something dramatic happens. The more prepared you are, the less likely an equipment malfunction will un-nerve already nervous performers and the more time you will have for rehearsal or warm-up.

Here are some ideas for things to include in your Equipment Survival Kit:

1. Extra End Caps!
2. Extra pole weights (if you use them)
3. Extra Electrical tape in every color you are using
4. A Small Pair of Scissors
5. A few Pads for re-padding rifles last minute (or cotton batting works too!)
6. Safety Pins
7. Strapping tape for repairing a rifle
8. A screwdriver (look for one with a flat head and a phillips head)
9. Clear Plastic tape for last minute fixes (if a rifle bolt screw comes out)
10. A small amount of duct tape (when all else fails!)
11. An extra pair of gloves (someone always seems to forget!)

12. Band-aids
13. A copy of the performance CD (always useful to keep spares EVERYWHERE!)
14. PVC Cutters (if you use PVC poles) in case the end of a pole cracks and needs to be trimmed

You can also include some personal items as well such as:

1. tylenol or advil (if school rules allow)
2. a small bottle of water
3. make-up wipes
4. a small bottle of hairspray (also good for slippery shoes!)
5. a small mirror
6. a small comb
7. feminine products
8. deodorant (aerosol is best for "sharing")
9. Basic First Aid Supplies (Ace Bandage, Cold Pack)

If you assign a student as equipment manager, this student would be responsible for picking up the survival kit and bringing it to the rehearsal space at each rehearsal. That way, repairs don't have to take too much valuable time away from practice!