

# Reef Survival Situation™

## TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Help teams storm up better solutions



**U**nlock  
the secret of  
synergy.

### WHAT IS THE REEF SURVIVAL SITUATION?

Developed by Michael Gourley of Human Synergistics New Zealand, the *Reef Survival Situation* places participants in a yacht on the Tasman Sea, 300 miles from Australia, on a windy morning. Suddenly, the boat goes into a complete roll and hits a reef with a single great crack. Water begins seeping through the hull, and the mast is gone. No one is expected to visit the reef for another five months!

### HOW DOES THE REEF SURVIVAL SITUATION WORK?

Participants are challenged to rank 12 potentially useful items in order of their relative importance to their survival. Solutions are developed on an individual basis and then by groups. Scores are generated by comparing individual and team answers to those provided by an expert in sea and shipwreck survival. Comparisons between individual and team scores indicate whether teams were able to achieve synergy by fully using and building on the knowledge and skills of their members.

The *Reef Survival Situation* takes approximately 1½ to 2 hours to complete, including scoring and debriefing.

### APPLICATIONS

The *Reef Survival Situation* can be used as an icebreaker, central activity, pre-test/post-test, or follow-up activity for programs focusing on:

- Building new teams
- Team development
- Problem solving and decision making

In addition, the *Reef Survival Situation* can also be used as:

- An icebreaker for an extended offsite gathering
- A kick-off to a group problem-solving session
- A tool for basic survival training

### WHO SHOULD EXPERIENCE THE REEF SURVIVAL SITUATION?

The *Reef Survival Situation* is appropriate for all audiences.