

## Testimonial of someone who did it right, Chris Steida.

Two of my son-in-laws and a grandson invited me to join them on a day hike to the top of Mount Albert Edward in Strathcona Provincial park on Vancouver Island. We started out early on Friday morning July 22, 2005, from the trailhead on Mount Washington. We reached the saddle between Mount Albert Edward and Jutland Mountain around 11:00 a.m. While I occupied myself on the wide ridge that stretches north to Jutland Mountain and south to Mount Albert Edward the three remaining members of my group continued to hike up to the peak of the latter mountain.



The weather was excellent and two hours later we rendezvoused again and started to look for the trail that had brought us up to the saddle. Due to an error in judgment I lost sight of my fellow hikers at this time and found myself stranded on a mountain I did not know. Clouds moved in from the East and try as I might I could not find the trail that leads down to Circler Lake. I therefore made the decision to stay put for the night. I planned to continue on and make my way back to civilization the next morning. I had with me extra food and a thermos of tea and some juice. In addition I had a warm sweater, a rain/wind proof jacket and an emergency blanket. Once I made my decision to stay put I found a flat spot with some moss that I pulled around. I anchored down one side of the emergency blanket with rocks and crawled in under it. Throughout the night I felt a little cold but not bad, I was able to sleep but woke about every hour. Once daylight came and visibility was better I was able to make my way out and down the mountain to meet the search and rescue teams that were en route to search for me.

Chris Steida is an experienced hiker and did it right. When asked about his preparations his first comment was "I always make sure I have proper hiking boots as I feel that is important". How true this is. Mr Steida also did it right when he realized that he was lost...he resigned himself to the fact, stayed put, and prepared himself for a night out. He had essential items. In so many instances people go out unprepared when such simple steps can make the difference in your condition or even survival.

