

TRYING OUT THE STRIKE FORCE

15 Dec 2003 Paul Phillips

You probably don't know that I have purchased four of the Strike Force Starters, From Survival Inc.

As noted, some are hard to open. Best is probably to use some light sand paper over the tabs on the narrow side of the case, to make them easier to open. Only one out of the four I bought was relatively easy to open, the first time. The other three took "all I had" to open them, at first, and I am a pretty big man.

Having yet to use one, I tried one out, a while ago. I took some toilette paper and wadded it up in the sink, and tried to start it. After just a few tries, and a very few indeed, I "caught the hang of it."

To say that the Strike Force Fire Starter is a modern Flint and Steel is a bit of a misnomer. The material of the central bar is Ferro Carbon, and yields much larger and hotter sparks than an old-fashioned Flint.

I tried a couple of ways to get my shower of sparks. Best seems to be to scrape the large central Ferro Carbon bar with the small steel striker held sideways. You will remove a bit of the bar each time, but they made the bar one-half an inch thick, and an inch-and-a-half long, for a reason.

The metal sparks that flew off the bar made a small a shower that looked and smelled, for all the world, like the "Sparklers" we used to get on the 4th of July. A lot of hot metal comes out.

They say the sparks are twice as hot as a match, and I believe it. Even prior to the paper burning, you could feel the heat of the striker sparks as they hit my metal sink, and I would NOT try this inside the house again, at all, even in a metal sink.

As noted, matches, and particularly waxed matches, are the best to keep stored. Butane lighters are good, and I have some of those. Butane lighters are mechanical, and will fail easier than matches. Matches burn quickly, and moisture or rough treatment can ruin them. The Magnesium Fire Starters are good, but the small Ferro Carbon bars will come out with sharp impact. The Strike Force Fire starter will work in that case, with the Mag bars that are left

The Strike Force Fire Starter will work long after matches have run out, and a butane lighter has failed. I would always keep the Strike Force as a reserve. I know I can start a fire with it. Paul.

As I finish writing this note it still smells like sparklers in here.