(In)Destructible Data

Resources

A selection of materials including items like egg boxes, cardboard, straws, bubble wrap, newspaper, carrier bags, balloons, zip-lock bags, string, and sellotape.
Paper & pen

Instructions

In teams, your task is to build a container to keep an important message safe. Your message will need to survive a variety of challenges which could include:

- Throwing a cup of water over it (or throwing it in a full bucket for a harder challenge!)
- Dropping it from a height.
- Cutting it with scissors
- Holding it over a candle briefly (or putting it in the campfire for a harder challenge!)

At the end of each test (or alternatively once all tests are completed) you should open the container and see if the message has survived.

Variations

- Instead of a message, teams could keep a CD safe which has a word document on it. The CD should be tested afterwards to see if the word document can still be accessed.
- Other objects you could use are eggs (messy!) or small action figures

Leader notes

- Some of these challenges contain risk. Leaders should apply their normal risk assessment procedure, especially regarding the use of fire and sharp objects.
- If using a CD, be aware of the possibility of computer damage when using damaged accessories (especially from water, heat, and weakened/cracked CDs)