

Newsletter – 18 Jan 07:09 AM

Off-Road Safety Academy [bob.wohlers@discoveroffroading.com]

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The Five Levels of Off-Road Competence

In the 1970's Noel Burch of Gordon Training International came up with descriptors of competence for any



discipline, job, recreation, or whatever. As an educator and instructional designer, I learned these levels in some of my educational psychology courses for my Masters Degree at UCLA and CSDH. We learned how to craft curriculum to move people from a lower

level of competence to those higher.

These levels are very telling. I have modified them specific for the knowledge and skills applicable to overlanding and off-roading. Just for fun, see what you think. At what level are you? (Honestly.) If you are thinking of traveling off-road remote, solo and perhaps even internationally, should you not be at Level Four? Even the very best off-road drivers strive to reach and remain at Level Five. Remember, "Practice does NOT make perfect." Only "**Perfect** Practice makes perfect." If you learn or practice the wrong way to do something, you'll continue to perform that skill in that manner when the crap hits the fan. This could cause more problems.

If you want to move upward towards level five, I suggest you take courses from a trained off-road educator. I would be honored to have you in my courses if you've never taken one. Go look at my course schedule [here](#), and my course descriptions [here](#).

Level One: Intentionally Incompetent

- o Knows of his incompetence – lacks motivation to improve their skill
- o Avoids training – laziness, fear, ego
- o May hurt or inconvenience others
- o Cannot really help others

Level Two: Unconsciously Incompetent

- o Does not know that he does not know
- o Includes most individuals that purchase a 4WD vehicle
- o Individuals that venture off-road infrequently

- o May hurt or inconvenience others
- o Finds out he is unconsciously incompetent under stress

Level Three: Consciously Incompetent

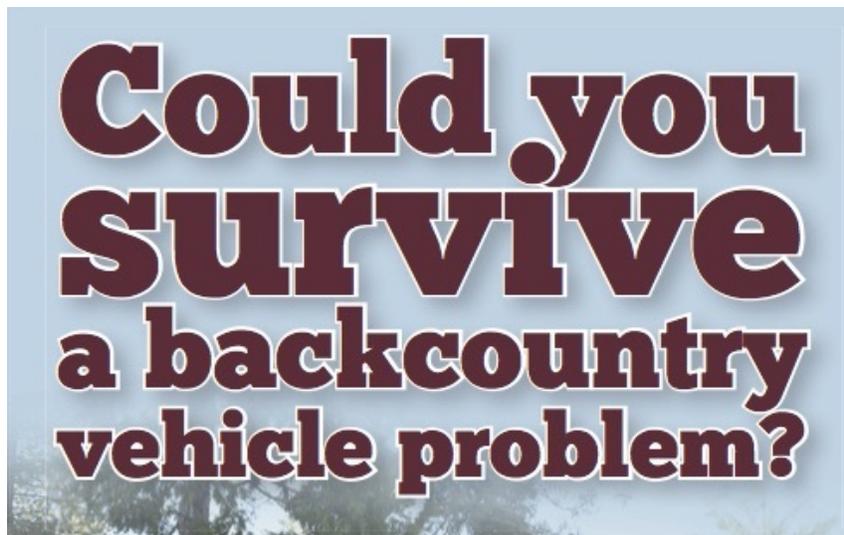
- o Person that survives a stressful situation
- o Now knows that he does not know much about off-roading – blames person in the mirror for being incompetent
- o Knows his shortcomings and wants to do something about that
- o Prepares a path of continued training & study

Level Four: Consciously Competent

- o Proper training & practice transforms a CI to a CC
- o Preps his vehicle and kit completely
- o Knows his vehicle very well
 - Traction
 - Clearance
- o Knows how to drive all terrain
- o Can help others
- o Reduces risk and inconvenience to others

Level Five: Unconsciously Competent

- o Ultimate level
- o Gained through repetitive & correct skill practice
- o Studies the discipline
- o Knows his limitations
- o Programmed his mind around his vehicle

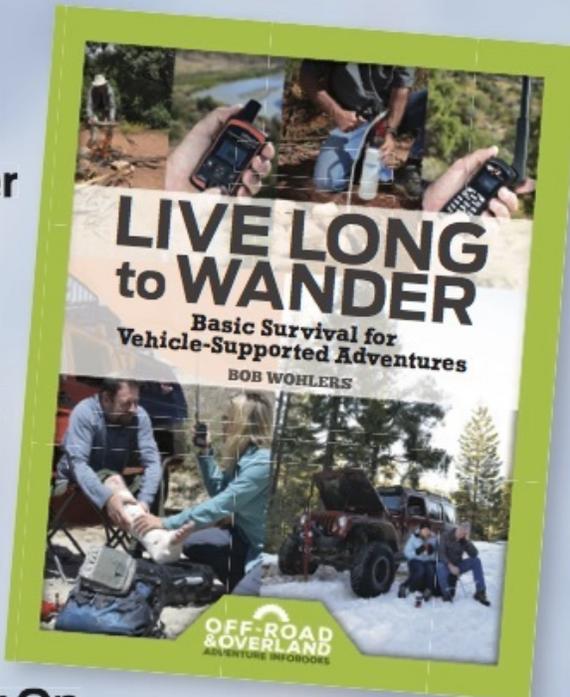




No? In Doubt?

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Kind regards,
Bob Wohlers – Off-Road Safety Academy

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