



## The Atomic Plant

### Objectives

At the end of this learning exercise, the participants (up to 30) will be able to:

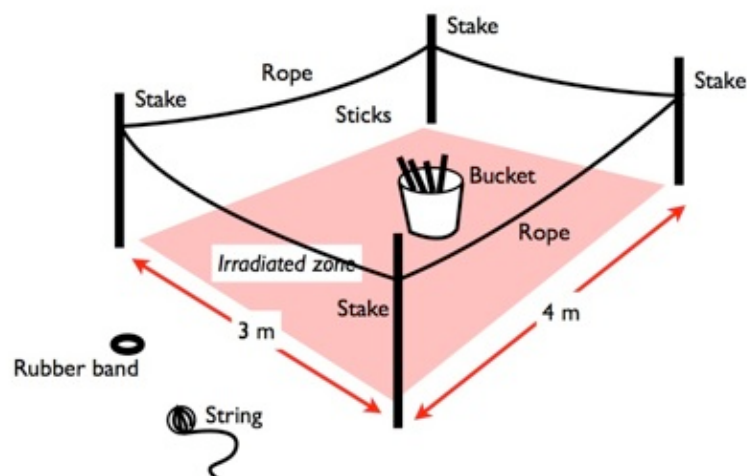
- Explain the three main functions of a leader: being attentive to the task, to the individuals and to the group.
- List the various skills that a leader should have.
- Explain the various styles of leadership

### Documentation

- Handout [BD020E01- Leadership]

### Materials

- A long length of string
- Four solid stakes
- A 10m long rope
- A rubber band
- A bucket
- 6 wooden or metallic sticks (30 cm long)
- Flip-chart, markers and observation grids



The atomic plant

## Preparation

Before to start the exercise, build the "atomic plant" with the stakes, the rope, the bucket and the sticks as indicated in the figure on the first page.

## Process

1. Explain to the participants that :
  - The "ring" made with the stakes and the rope is an *atomic plant*.
  - The bucket in the middle of the "ring" represents the *atomic reactor*, the core of the plant.
  - The stick are *uranium bars*.
  - The atomic plant is warming up too quickly, there is a "chain reaction" and a danger of atomic explosion. It is necessary to take of the "uranium bars" from the "reactor" in order to stop the "chain reaction".
  - However, all the atomic plant is now irradiated. Any member of the rescue team cannot enter into the irradiated zone (or even put a hand or a foot into it) without being immediately killed or seriously wounded and excluded from the game.
2. Ask 8 volunteers to play the rescue team, the other participants will be observers..
3. Distribute the observation grids to the observers
4. Explain to the rescue team their task. They have 15 min to take the uranium bars out of the atomic plant without entering in the irradiated zone and without moving the reactor. The only tools they have is the length of string and the rubber band.
5. Ask the rescue team to elect among them a leader who will have the charge to lead the team and conduct the operations.
6. Give the signal of starting and stop the rescue team after 15 min.
7. Ask the observers to share their observations and note them on the flip-chart in three categories: attention to the task, attention to the individual, attention to the group. Does the rescue team find the solution to take off the uranium bars? How?
8. Then ask the members of the rescue team to share the feelings they had during the exercise. Were they frustrated by something? Irritated by something? Enthusiast or discouraged? Did they experiment division or cohesion? Do they think that the leader was helpful or not and why? Note their comments on the flip-chart.
9. Finally ask the leader to explain the feelings he had during the exercise? Was he frustrated, irritated, enthusiast, discouraged? For what reasons? Does he think that he had a good and disciplined team under his orders? Note the leader's comments on the flip-chart.

## Conclusion

From the notes you have written on the flip-chart, explain to the participants:

1. The three main functions of the leaders: pay attention to the task, to the individuals and to the group;
2. The main competencies of a leader;
3. The three main styles of leadership: directive, laissez-faire and cooperative.

Use for that the handout [BD020E01- Leadership], that you can distribute to the participants.