

HONOR-  
ABLE  
MENTION

SOTERIA  
CHAIR

# HAVE CHAIR, MIGHT SURVIVE



CREATORS: ECCO DESIGN  
COMMUNITY: NERVOUS HIGH-RISE OFFICE WORKERS  
PROJECT: EMERGENCY GEAR CHAIR

In a time of terrorism the humble office worker feels exposed, a reserve soldier in a global war. Ecco's designers equipped their simple-looking office chair with a fireproof hooded vest, first-aid supplies, rope and sharp-edged tools. Armrests double as crowbars or shovel handles, and the chair back serves as a shovel. The hard-topped hooded vest sports a gas mask, battery, embedded LED lamp, heartbeat sensor that transmits the victim's location, and FM radio for receiving safety instructions. If the building falls on top of you, just put on the vest, dismantle your chair, and try to dig your way out of the rubble.

*"For the 2004 Popular Science invitational design competition, we chose the theme of "technological CARE packages for the 21st century." What good, we asked, might emerging technology do for global communities in need? We put the problem before internationally renowned designers, architects, and thinkers. The results surprised and delighted us..."*