An Impromptu Bow Drill (Effective survival skills don't always have to be pretty)

Categories: General Prepping, Wilderness Survival

If you spend any time in the great outdoors, being able to start a fire by friction is a vital confidence building skill to have. I should add that just watching a survival expert do this on TV doesn't constitute you being able to do it; knowing how to do something isn't the same as being able to do something. If you have seen it done on TV or in books, get out there and give it a go, because it can be difficult and frustrating. It is far better it is difficult and frustrating in your back yard whilst you are practising, rather than being difficult and frustrating when you are lost in the woods and it is getting dark!

Also the things is, when you watch survival experts like Ray Mears build a bow drill and start a fire, it is usually pretty easy to spot that they have spent several hours crafting their bow drill. The thing is - I think this can put people off as they assume they don't have the ability to build such a perfect looking bow drill. Luckily though Creek Stewart from Willow Haven Outdoors isn't so concerned
with aesthetics. He found a fallen branch and decided to make the best of it and make an impromptu bow drill and start a fire. It's not pretty, but it makes fire! Check out Creek's great tutorial/series of photos below. Remember - in survival situations, it's function over form. As long as it gets the job done, it doesn't matter what it looks like.

**From BRANCH to BURN: An Impromptu Bow Drill Fire Photo Series**

(Photo from: Willow Haven Outdoors)