DECISION MAKING UNDER STRESS
(Ted Putnam)

1. The greater the stress, the greater the likelihood that a decision-maker will choose a risky alternative.

2. Groups experiencing substantive conflict more frequently employ creative alternatives to achieve more productive decisions than groups without conflict.

3. The greater the group conflict aroused by a crisis, the number of communication channels available to handle incoming information decrease.

4. During crisis, the ability of the group to handle difficult tasks requiring intensely focused attention is decreased.

5. The greater the stress, the greater the tendency to make a premature choice of alternatives for a correct response.

6. The greater the stress, the less likely that individuals can tolerate “ambiguity.”

7. Under increasing stress, there is a decrease in productive thoughts and an increase in distracting thoughts.

8. The greater the stress, the greater the distortion in perception of threat and poor judgment often occurs.

9. The greater the fear, frustration and hostility aroused by a “crisis,” the greater the tendency to aggression and escape behaviors.

10. In a stressful situation (whether real or perceived stress), only immediate survival goals are considered which means that longer range considerations must be sacrificed.