

Rebuild Ladder A0-A5

A chronological capability ladder from crash aftermath to frontier systems

PURPOSE

This guide is part of the v1.8 editorial test library. It explains how to use the structure without treating the current proposal as irrevocable.

A0	Day one and immediate survival	Useful now with carried, found, or improvised resources.
A1	Stabilized community	Useful with hand tools, local materials, salvage, skilled labor, and simple power.
A2	Industrial seed	Reliable powered workshops, standardized parts, controlled processes, or sustained electrification are mandatory.
A3	Infrastructure recovery	Regional networks, public works, grids, institutions, or coordinated specialist systems are mandatory.
A4	Advanced industry and science	Precision facilities, high-purity supply chains, advanced computing, or specialty science are mandatory.
A5	Frontier systems	Research capability exceeds ordinary advanced-industry practice.

THE LADDER IS NOT A PRESTIGE SCALE

Earlier placement is preferred whenever a capable survivor group can obtain a useful result with fewer dependencies. Advanced theory can be valuable early, but implementation level is determined by operating requirements.

A0: Stabilize life and preserve options

ENTRY CONDITION
Day one and immediate survival

Priority capabilities

- Water, shelter, heat, first aid, sanitation, food acquisition
- Orientation, signaling, emergency records, watches, morale
- Hazard isolation, battery and wire safety, tool and hardware recovery
- Improvised repair with carried, found, or salvaged materials

Day-one question

What prevents death, exposure, contamination, disorientation, panic, or loss of recoverable equipment today? If the answer is actionable with immediate resources, it belongs in A0 form.

A1: Create a durable community base

ENTRY CONDITION

Stabilized community

Priority capabilities

- Agriculture, preservation, household water, latrines, soap, hygiene
- Local-material construction, passive solar, manual energy and water power
- Blacksmithing, casting, hand tools, repair, electrical salvage and refurbishment
- Teaching, recordkeeping, governance, apprenticeship, workshop preparation

Historical-precedent question

Was a useful version practiced before electricity, modern machine tools, or industrial supply chains? If yes, A1 owns that manual, salvage, or small-workshop form.

A2: Establish a reproducible industrial seed

ENTRY CONDITION

Industrial seed

Priority capabilities

- Powered workshops, machine tools, standardized and interchangeable parts
- Controlled chemical and thermal processes
- Electric generation, regulation, instrumentation, and industrial quality control
- Manufacturing systems able to maintain and reproduce critical equipment

Promotion gate

Do reliable powered workshops, controlled processes, standard parts, sustained electrification, or trained technicians become mandatory? Helpful is not enough: the dependency must be required.

A3: Restore regional systems

ENTRY CONDITION
Infrastructure recovery

Priority capabilities

- Waterworks, sewerage, grids, public works, transport networks
- Regional depots, public health, standards, broadcasting, civil records
- Coordinated institutions and specialist teams
- Infrastructure reliability beyond a single community or workshop

Promotion gate

Promotion occurs only when the named higher-level dependency is mandatory for the useful form being described. Lower-stage companion forms remain available.

A4: Recover advanced industrial depth

ENTRY CONDITION
Advanced industry and science

Priority capabilities

- Precision manufacturing and metrology
- Advanced materials, semiconductors, computing, specialty medicine
- High-purity feedstocks and complex supply chains
- Advanced systems and reliability engineering

Promotion gate

Promotion occurs only when the named higher-level dependency is mandatory for the useful form being described. Lower-stage companion forms remain available.

A5: Pursue frontier capability

ENTRY CONDITION
Frontier systems

Priority capabilities

- Research systems beyond ordinary A4 production
- Experimental materials, energy, medicine, computation, and autonomous maintenance
- Long-horizon stewardship and frontier reference
- Capability whose realization still depends on research uncertainty

Promotion gate

Promotion occurs only when the named higher-level dependency is mandatory for the useful form being described. Lower-stage companion forms remain available.