

NWCG Equipment Technology Committee

National Fire Equipment System

Cache Memorandum: 23-01

March 1, 2023



To: NFES: National Interagency Support Caches (NISC)

From: Bill Yohn, Acting Chair, NWCG Equipment Technology Committee (ETC)

Subject: Discontinuation of Shelf Stable Food Boxes (NFES 7478) in NISC

Issue: The shelf stable food box pilot program has concluded. While the item received positive field feedback, it is both labor-intensive and cost-prohibitive to continue offering. It will be discontinued and not available from the National Interagency Support Cache (NISC) system.



Background: The COVID-19 pandemic required creative solutions for how to feed firefighters. In the beginning, there were questions on how robust the national catering capacity would be; therefore, it was prudent to look at options other than Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) to offer menu variety. However, the logistical and storage challenges, along with limited requests for these types of meals, which require heating and cooking capability by the consumer as an additional component, led to the decision to discontinue in the NISC.

Action: This memo directs the removal of the Shelf Stable Food Boxes from the National Interagency Cache System.

- Inventory can be transferred to the Job Corps or donated to non-profit food banks by normal Agency guidelines and regulatory requirements.

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