



TO :

FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 07/16/2002

SUBJECT : SAFETY ADVISORY : Forest Service Policy - Fire Resistant Clothing (Kevlar BDU)

Attached is a summary and clarification of the subject policy .

-ed-

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TO : Wildland Fire Fighters
FROM : Ed Hollenshead, USDA Forest Service National Fire Operations Safety Officer
REPLY TO : ehollenshead@fs.fed.us
DATE : July 8, 2002
SUBJECT : **SAFETY ALERT** : Fire Fighter Protective Garments – re. Kevlar BDUs

Following is a note clarifying **Forest Service Policy** regarding flame resistant clothing for fire fighters.

NWCG agreements establish that the safety equipment policies and requirements of each member are accepted across the board. **If firefighters are in compliance with the policies of their agency, they need not worry about complying with a different policy when on a fire of another agency's jurisdiction.**

Forest Service policy requires for all fire line duties that flame-resistant clothing must meet the minimum protection requirements specified in the National Fire Protection Association Standard NFPA-1977, *Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting*. To be NFPA-1977 compliant, garments and equipment are required to be certified by a third party. Two companies do third party certification to NFPA 1977, Safety Equipment Inc (SEI) and Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL). Currently SEI certifies gloves procured through GSA. Underwriters Labs performs the majority of the certifications for NFPA 1977. The UL Classification Mark for these products includes the UL symbol , the word "CLASSIFIED" above the UL symbol, and the following additional information:

**PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION STANDARD ON
PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING
NFPA 1977-(issue date)
(Control No.)**

The labeling information may be abbreviated as follows:

**PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING
IN ACCORDANCE WITH NFPA 1977-(issue date)
(Control No.)**

To obtain more information about certified products for NFPA-1977 go to <http://www.ul.com>, link to "certifications." Search by: *Keyword*. Type: *wildland fire* for keyword search.