



TO : gail.kantak@dnr.state.ia.us

FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 12/12/2002

SUBJECT : SAFETY ADVISORY : Fire Shelter Re-bagging Project- Continued

The attached cache memo should be distributed widely within your organization .



NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER

3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

9216 NFES (FA240)
December 10, 2002
October 22, 2002

NATIONAL FIRE EQUIPMENT SYSTEM CACHE MEMORANDUM NO. 03-2

To: NFES National Incident Support Caches
From: Paul Naman, NFES Representative - NIFC
Subject: Fire Shelter Re-bagging Project - Continued

Initial deliveries of the new model fire shelter to GSA depots are expected to begin by June 2003. It is important to note that due to manufacturing limitations it will be several years before there will be enough new fire shelters available to totally replace those now in service. As a result, the current model fire shelters will remain in service for as long as three to five more years.

Last year, GSA awarded a contract to Freedom Packaging, Inc. for the re-bagging of existing fire shelters (NFES #s 0168 and 0169) with the improved polyvinyl bag. This was part of the fire shelter re-bagging process described in Cache Memorandum Numbers 01-8 and 02-1, which applied to all serviceable fire shelters. Many owners of fire shelters decided not to re-bag their inventories at that time, opting instead to continue issuing fire shelters with modified defective polyvinyl bags (see Cache Memo No. 01-6) in anticipation of replacement with the new fire shelter design in 2003. Given the extended period of introduction for the new model fire shelter, and the need for older fire shelters to remain longer in service, the Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) now recommends that NWCG agencies and their cooperators re-bag their existing inventories of serviceable fire shelters to ensure maximum service life.

Only fire shelters that meet the standards for issue as described in "Your Fire Shelter, 2001 Edition" are eligible for re-bagging. Fire shelters that do not meet the inspection standards should be discarded and not re-bagged. There are approximately 47,500 fire shelters manufactured by Weckworth Mfg., which are equipped with the new polyvinyl bags with correct pull tabs. These fire shelters have been received by GSA and have already been issued out to field units. An additional 15,000 are still left on contract, which will also be equipped with the new polyvinyl bags. These fire shelters do not require re-bagging and can be identified through the following contract and purchase order numbers:

Contract Number Purchase Order Number(s)

K0054 S-W-DT657-1 and S-W-DU606-1
M0009 S-W-DV531-1
M0053 S-W-DW985-1

GSA has extended the contract with Freedom Packaging Inc. for the re-bagging of fire shelters with the new polyvinyl bag. Agencies or other organizations needing to re-bag their serviceable fire shelters should adhere to the following procedures:

Identify the number of fire shelters requiring re-bagging by NSN. The applicable NSNs are:
Complete Fire Shelter 4240-01-121-8698 (NFES #0169)
Single Fire Shelter 4240-01-123-1616 (NFES #0168)

Report the number of fire shelters by NSN to GSA, Ray Balli, GSA Fire Program Coordinator, who will coordinate the re-bagging process and provide shipping instructions. Report numbers by email to: ramon.balli@gsa.gov or facsimile (817) 978-3761.

Once approved by GSA, fire shelter owners will be instructed to ship the fire shelters to Freedom Packaging, 5 Sam Stratton Road, Amsterdam, NY 12010, marked for "Rebagging". Shipment will be made at customer's expense.

Each shipping container should include inside the complete address of the shipping agency, including the name and telephone number of the person who will be the point of contact. This will help ensure that fire shelters are returned to the right customers. It is recommended that mode of shipping selected be one which can be tracked. Freedom Packaging will re-bag fire shelters and return within 30 to 45 days. Return freight charges will be at GSA expense.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this information contact Dennis Davis, MTDC, at (406) 329-3929.

/s/ Paul E. Naman

cc:

State Fire Management Officers - BLM
Regional Directors Fire and Aviation Management - USFS
Technology Development Centers - San Dimas, Missoula
Agency Directors - NIFC
Agency Directors - NIFC Logistics Center - NICC
Ray Balli - GSA
Paul Solarz USFS

