

NWCG Equipment Technology Committee

Equipment Bulletin: 24-001

May 29, 2024



To: Incident Management Team Personnel and Cache Managers

From: Nate Hesse, Chair, NWCG Equipment Technology Committee (ETC)

Subject: Discontinued Use of Hot/Cold Beverage Kits – 2024 Field Season

Issue: Catering units will not provide hot beverages to remote resources due to spout failures on the high-temperature beverage bags in the Hot/Cold Beverage Kit (NFES #0244).

Action: As an alternative, coffee heating kits are available to order by Incident Management Teams (IMT) and fire personnel to support spike camps and remote resources through the cache system.

Coffee Heating Kit NFES #000480

Propane Tank, 20# NFES #000491

IMT members may see the Hot/Cold Beverage Kits on incidents due to preloading and repositioning on supply vans/trucks, these shall not to be used. Catering staff have been notified that these shall not to be used in 2024.

Background: In November of 2023, the Interagency Support Caches temporarily discontinued the distribution of the hot beverage kit assemblies due to spout failures and the risk of burn injuries.

Additional Information: Equipment specialists with the National Technology and Development Program evaluated several commercially available alternative options. An interim solution has not been identified to replace the faulty spouts, additional options will continue to be evaluated, and coordination with industry experts is ongoing.

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NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.