

# NWCG Equipment Technology Committee

National Fire Equipment System

Equipment Warning: 25-001

January 10, 2025



**To:** Wildland Firefighting Community

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

**Subject:** Non-specification fire shelters

**Issue:** Non-specification fire shelters claiming to meet Forest Service (FS) fire shelter specification 5100-606 were first found in February of 2023. Non-specification shelters are again being advertised and sold on the open market as of September 2024.

**Background:** The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Equipment Technology Committee (ETC) Warning [23-001 Non-Specification Fire Shelters](#) was released March 8, 2023 to inform the wildland fire community of the shelters falsely claiming to meet FS Specification 5100-606.

FS specification shelters utilize materials and components that meet performance criteria and toxicity testing requirements. The non-specification shelter and shelter materials have not been tested to the requirements outlined in FS Specification 5100-606 and may not perform as intended putting wildland firefighters at an increased risk of injury or death.

**Action:** Federal firefighters should purchase shelters directly from FedMall to avoid purchasing non-specification shelters. State and local government firefighters may be able to register for FedMall access through the State and Local Government Purchasing Program.

Those buying outside of FedMall should ensure the fire shelters they purchase meet specifications. Inspect shelters upon delivery to verify they meet specification requirements ([see ETC Warning 23-01](#)) and were not damaged during transit and delivery.

Please note that non-specification shelter sites may use images of FS specification shelters or edited images of specification shelters. See Image 1 and 2.



*Image 1: On the left is the original unedited image. On the right is an edited image with a specification carry case and a non-specification shelter. This edited image was found in the description of a non-specification shelter.*



*Image 2: Legitimate shelter image found in description of non-specification shelter.*

Common language used to describe legitimate specification shelters has been found in the description of non-specification shelters. In some instances, a statement has been added stating:

*“Sample not sent to U.S. Forestry Dept for approval because it is made in China. Meets other specifications. Meets ASTM D6413/D6413M Standard Test Method for Flame Resistance of Textiles.”*  
See image 3.

### **Features**

- Fire Shelter
- Nylon duck carrying case and carrying case plastic liner
- New-generation fire shelter provides increased protection from radiant and convective heat in wildland firefighter entrapment situations
- Rounded ends to help scatter radiant heat
- Length: 86in
- Width: 31in
- Height: 15.5in
- Weight: 5.4lbs

**Sample not sent to U.S. Forestry Dept for approval because it is made in China. Meets other specifications.**

**Meets ASTM D6413/D6413M-22 Standard Test Method for Flame Resistance of Textiles.**

*Image 3: Example of the description used on a non-specification shelter.*

**Additional Information:** For additional information on identifying non-specification shelters, please view [ETC Safety Warning 23-01](#).

If you have purchased a non-specification shelter or have questions/concerns about your shelter, remove it from service and contact.

**Contact:** David Maclay-Schulte, Equipment Specialist, U.S. Forest Service, NTDP, at david.j.maclayschulte@usda.gov, or by phone (406) 329-3965 or (406) 396-4919.