

NWCG Equipment Technology Committee

Equipment Bulletin: 25-001

April 10, 2025



To: Incident Management Team Personnel and Cache Managers

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

Subject: Retrofitted Hot/Cold Beverage Kits Available (NFES #0244) – 2025 Field Season



Action: Manufacturers of the Hot/Cold Beverage Kit have retrofitted the high-temperature bags using a heat-shrinking band to secure the black spout into the insertion site.

Retrofitted kits will have a fluorescent label on each full kit assembly (Figure 1). Catering units are encouraged to confirm the clear heat-shrinking bands are intact around each spout before filling (Figure 2). Kits missing a fluorescent label should be inspected for heat-shrinking bands before use; discard kits missing the heat-shrinking band.

Figure 1: Fluorescent label indicating kit has been retrofitted.



Figure 2: Heat-shrinking band.



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.

Background: On May 29, 2024, NWCG ETC released Equipment Bulletin: [24-001](#) for the discontinued use of the Hot/Cold Beverage Kit (NFES #0244) due to spout failure and risk of burn injury.

The manufacturer presented the heat-shrinking band as a solution. The National Technology and Development Program (NTDP) completed sample inspection and approved the heat-shrinking bands in May of 2024.

The Northern Rockies Interagency Fire Cache provided complete retrofitted Hot/Cold Beverage Kit Assembly samples for inspection and testing in February 2025. NTDP inspected the spouts prior to testing to confirm heat-shrinking bands were in place. The high-temperature bags were filled with 200-degree Fahrenheit liquid with spouts being accessed at the following intervals: immediate, 15, 30, 45, and 60 minutes. Spout integrity and functionality was maintained at all access intervals.

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