

NWCG Equipment Technology Committee

National Fire Equipment System

Cache Memorandum: 24-001

6/24/2024



To: National Interagency Support Caches

From: Nate Hesse-ETC, Chair

Subject: Dragon Egg Plastic Sphere Devices

Issue: Dragon Egg aerial ignition sphere (NFES 003412) users have reported rapid reaction times that lead to volatile effects and inadequate ignition in year 2023 lot numbers. This memo supersedes Cache memorandum 23-02.

Action: Interagency Support Caches should issue Dragon Egg aerial ignition spheres and refer users to [Interagency Aviation Tech Bulletin IA TB 24-02](#) for guidance if the user notifies the cache of problems with the spheres. If users report issues other than rapid reaction times and volatile effects, refer the notifying person to the contact line below.

Background: Interagency Aviation Tech Bulletin 24-02 advises users to be aware of the issues and provides recommended actions to attempt to make the spheres react properly.

The manufacturer had to temporarily order potassium permanganate from an alternate supplier during dates which approximately match the dates of reported issues. They used the alternate supplier from February to December 2023. The manufacturer has confirmed that potassium permanganate from their normal supplier is available and is being used in new orders of aerial ignition spheres. This may provide some performance improvement.

Contact: Josh Ingle, USFS National Helicopter Program Manager/Aerial Ignition, 406-558-9690, joshua.ingle@usda.gov

Kelly Boyd, USFS National UAS Aerial Ignition Specialist, 970-628-6631, kelly.boyd@usda.gov

Shawn Steber, USFS National Technology Development Program, Ignition Specialist, 406-829-6785, shawn.steber@usda.gov

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.