NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER

3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

9216 NFES (FA240)
April 12, 2004

National Fire Equipment System
Cache Memorandum No. 04-1

To: NFES National Incident Support Caches

From: Paul Naman, NFES Representative

Subject: New Generation Fire Shelter (NFES # 0925, 0926) Retrofit Plan

In mid-March, 2004 a Safenet alert was submitted through the Forest Service safety program describing a 5-inch tear that occurred on the floor material near the handles on the new generation fire shelter during deployment training. Subsequent evaluation by Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) Equipment Specialists has confirmed that due to the construction method used to attach the handles to the shelter's floor there is a weakness which can result in limited, but unacceptable tearing of the floor material when the shelter is vigorously shaken.

MTDC personnel have developed changes to the manufacture and assembly process for fire shelters that will correct the problem. The two current contractors manufacturing fire shelters have already implemented these corrective changes into their production process (designated as "Revision C" to the specification).

Under a new contract all 68,600 existing new generation fire shelters currently in GSA's inventory, in the NFES Geographic Area Caches, and in service with federal and state agencies and their cooperators are being recalled. These fire shelters will be reworked (retrofitted) by the original manufacturers to provide equivalent performance to new production versions constructed under the upgraded specification. The recall applies only to new generation fire shelters, NFES# 0925, NSN 4240-01-498-3194, and NFES# 0926, NSN 4240-01-498-3184 manufactured by Anchor Industries, Inc. or Weckworth Manufacturing. The recall does not include the old model fire shelter, NFES #0169, NSN 4240-01-121-8698, and NFES #0168, NSN 4240-01-123-1616. It is anticipated that the retrofitting process will proceed at a rate of 3,000 to 5,000 fire shelters per week.

The eleven NFES Geographic Area Caches (see Attachment) will coordinate the fire shelter recall for their respective areas. Specific procedures to be followed are outlined below:

- Field users need to identify recall eligible fire shelters that are in serviceable condition. The USDA Forest Service will assume all shipping costs associated with the fire shelter recall. State fire organizations and cooperators should return the new generation fire shelter for retrofit to the nearest federal agency cache. Federal agencies should contact the appropriate NFES Geographic Area Cache for shipping cost instructions. Ship the complete fire shelter (shelter, bag, liner, and case) when possible. Provide the following information in writing with your shipment to ensure orderly processing and return:

: Contact name
: Return shipping address
: Quantity shipped
: Contact phone #

- The Geographic Area Caches will inspect and sort fire shelters by manufacturer. Shipments of recalled fire shelters to either Anchor Industries Inc. or Weckworth Manufacturing for reworking will be coordinated with the GSA Fire Program Coordinator.

- Reworked fire shelters will be shipped from the manufacturer to the sending NFES Geographic Area Cache. The Caches will then distribute these shipments in the correct quantities and configurations to the appropriate federal, state, or cooperating organizations. Fire shelters returned to owners will not necessarily be the same examples originally sent.

- Retrofit priority will be given to shelters from operational organizations, with lower priority assigned to those from GSA's inventory. Additional prioritization may be implemented based on national need.

- Old model fire shelters will be utilized operationally pending the availability of "Revision C" specification models or retrofit models. The old model fire shelters are no longer available through GSA but a limited number of these shelters may be available from your local or NFES Geographic Area Cache. If available these fire shelters may be ordered through the resource ordering process utilizing an appropriate charge code and later returned for credit if still in serviceable condition.

- Retrofitted fire shelters will be marked with a red “R” following the NSN # on the label visible in the bagged shelter. Shipping containers will also be marked with a red “R” following the NSN # visible on the outside of the box. New fire shelters manufactured with change “C” specification upgrades will be identifiable by having a pink label visible inside the bagged shelter in lieu of white labels used previously. Shipping containers for these shelters can be identified by a “C” following the printed NSN # on the outside of the box.

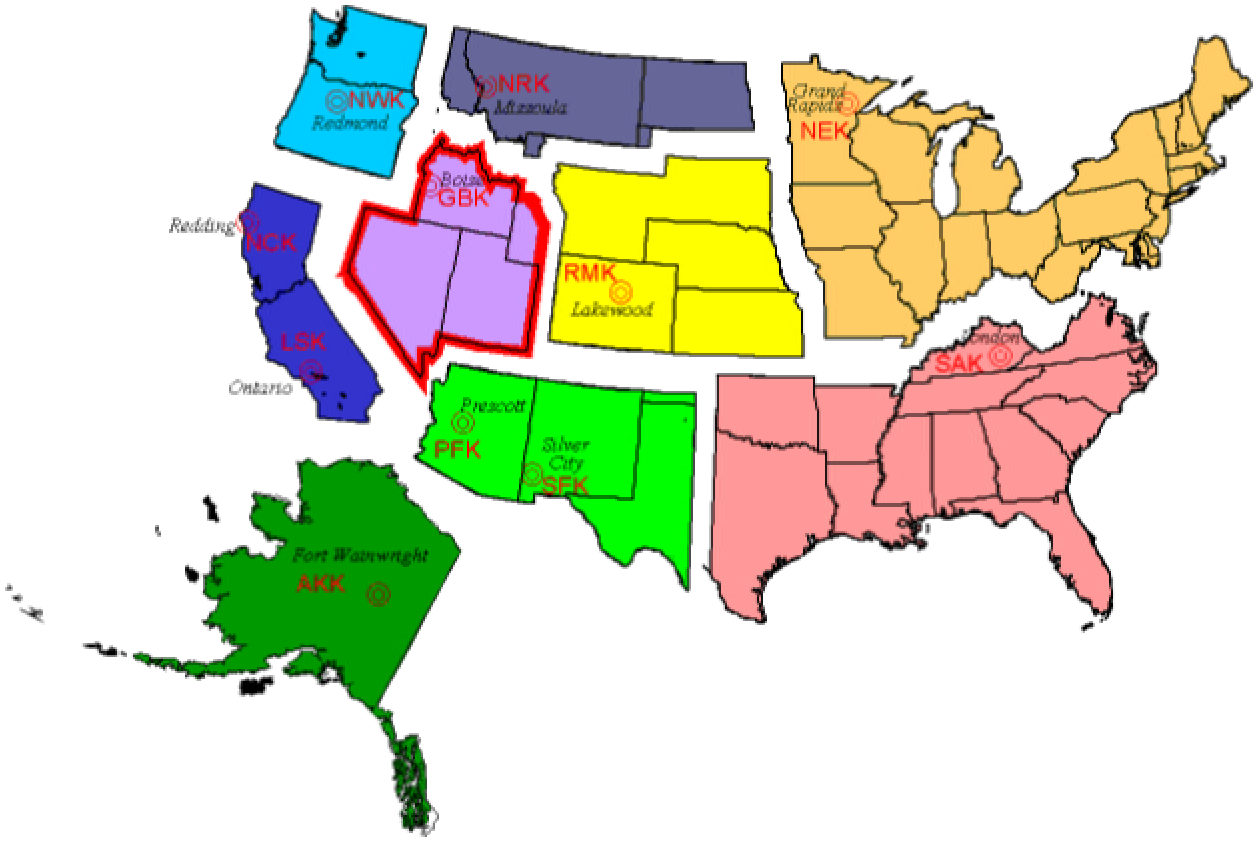
If you have any questions or comments related to this information please contact George Jackson at (406) 329-3967, Leslie Anderson at (406) 329-1043, or Paul Naman at (208) 387-5421.

/s/ Paul E. Naman

Attachment

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

NFES Geographical Area Caches



AKK – Alaska Incident Support Cache
P O Box 35005 (mail only)
Bldg 1544 Receiving/Warehouse
(surface shipments)
Ft. Wainwright, Alaska 99705
(907) 356-5742

GBK – Great Basin Cache – NIFC
3833 South Development Ave
Boise, Idaho 83705
(208) 387-5104

LSK – Southern Calif. – Logistics Support Center
1310 S Cucamonga Avenue
Ontario, California 91761-4507
(909) 930-3207

NCK – Northern California
6101 Airport Road
Redding, California 96002
(530) 226-2850

NEK – Northeast Interagency Fire Cache
402 11th Street S. E.
Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744
(218) 327-4579 / 4578

NRK – Northern Rockies Area
5765 West Broadway
Missoula, Montana 59808
(406) 329-4949 / 4904

NWK – Northwest Area
Redmond Air Center
1740 S E Ochoco Way
Redmond, Oregon 97756
(541) 504-7234

PFK – Southwest Area Prescott
2400 Melville Drive
Prescott, Arizona 86301
(928) 777-5631 / 5632

RMK – Rocky Mountain Fire Cache
P O Box 25507 (mail only)
DFC, BLDG 810, Door N27 (surface shipments)
Lakewood, Colorado 80225
(303) 202-4940

SAK – Southern Interagency Fire Cache
788 Sublimity School Road
London, Kentucky 40744
(606) 864-9559

SFK – Southwest Area Silver City
158 Airport Road
Hurley, New Mexico 88043
(505) 388-5672