



**TO :**

**FROM :** National Wildfire Coordinating Group

**REPLY TO :** NWCG@nifc.gov

**DATE :** 07/16/2002

**SUBJECT :** SAFETY ADVISORY : Forest Service Policy - Fire Resistant Clothing (Kevlar BDU)

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Attached is a summary and clarification of the subject policy .

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USDA Forest Service

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**TO :** Wildland Fire Fighters  
**FROM :** Ed Hollenshead, USDA Forest Service National Fire Operations Safety Officer  
**REPLY TO :** ehollenshead@fs.fed.us  
**DATE :** July 8, 2002  
**SUBJECT :** **SAFETY ALERT** : Fire Fighter Protective Garments – re. Kevlar BDUs

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Following is a note clarifying **Forest Service Policy** regarding flame resistant clothing for fire fighters.

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NWCG agreements establish that the safety equipment policies and requirements of each member are accepted across the board. **If firefighters are in compliance with the policies of their agency, they need not worry about complying with a different policy when on a fire of another agency's jurisdiction.**

Forest Service policy requires for all fire line duties that flame-resistant clothing must meet the minimum protection requirements specified in the National Fire Protection Association Standard NFPA-1977, *Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting*. To be NFPA-1977 compliant, garments and equipment are required to be certified by a third party. Two companies do third party certification to NFPA 1977, Safety Equipment Inc (SEI) and Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL). Currently SEI certifies gloves procured through GSA. Underwriters Labs performs the majority of the certifications for NFPA 1977. The UL Classification Mark for these products includes the UL symbol , the word "CLASSIFIED" above the UL symbol, and the following additional information:

**PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION STANDARD ON  
PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING  
NFPA 1977-(issue date)  
(Control No.)**

The labeling information may be abbreviated as follows:

**PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH NFPA 1977-(issue date)  
(Control No.)**

To obtain more information about certified products for NFPA-1977 go to <http://www.ul.com>, link to "certifications." Search by: *Keyword*. Type: *wildland fire* for keyword search.