

Appendix M

9216 NFES (FC240)



August 1, 2002

**National Fire Equipment System
Cache Memorandum No. 02-07**

To: NFES: National Incident Support Caches

From: Paul Naman, NFES Representative-NIFC

Subject: Defective Single-bit Boy's Axe, NFES, #0352, NSN 5110-00-293-2339

It has been determined that a supplier of the single-bit, boy's axe, NFES #0352, NSN 5110-00-293-2339, has furnished axes to GSA that are deficient in multiple areas which presents a potential safety hazard. The primary defects that necessitate inspection of each organization's entire stock are as follows:

1. The axe head on some examples is reversed on the handle (or upside down). Therefore, the handle was placed into the large end of the axe eye (instead of the small end).
2. The axe head was wedged to the handle with a wooden wedge instead of the required plastic wedge.
3. The axe head was not glued to the handle with epoxy glue.

Users are instructed to inspect axes in their possession and if they meet any of the criteria above, pull them from service and have them reworked (replace handles) and refurbished in accordance with established standards.

The supplier of the deficient axes was Kaufman Company. However, they are a distributor and the actual manufacturer was Madison Mills. To complicate identification, they do not have a manufacturer's symbol or trademark engraved on the head nor the "FSS" marking. When supplied new, the axes did have a paper label on the handle identifying them as Madison Model No. 1811, 2-1/4 lb Boy's Axe.

To assist in the identification of deficient axes, the attached photo is provided. It is based on a scan of a deficient axe, showing the improperly attached head. Since it is reproduced here full size, one can use it by placing a questionable axe on top of it (as if to trace it) and determine if the head profile is the same. If so, then the axe should be considered deficient and will require refurbishment. If the axe being examined has already been refurbished, then the cutting edge may be smaller and we have to assume that the refurbishment took care of the problem. Also if the handle has been replaced during refurbishment, then the axe should be okay since the standards require the head to be epoxied to the handle.

As an additional aid in identifying deficient axes, the head contains a metal ring pressed on top of the wood wedge (approximately one-half inch in diameter). If the axes being examined have the metal ring, then they were supplied by Kaufman/Madison Mills and should be refurbished.

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GSA will ensure that their stock is free from any of the above deficiencies.

The above actions have been coordinated with and approved by MTDC. For further clarification or inquiries, please contact Bill Hicks, GSA Engineering Staff, (817) 978-4428.

/s/ Paul E. Naman

cc:
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