

NWCG Equipment Technology Committee

National Fire Equipment System

Cache Memorandum: 21-01

March 4, 2021



To: NFES: National Interagency Support Caches (NISC)

From: David Haston, Chair – NWCG Equipment Technology Committee

Subject: Fire Shelter PVC Bag Retrofit Enhancement

Background:

The PVC bag has been an effective protective cover for the fire shelter. During two recent entrapment/fire shelter deployments, firefighters identified an unanticipated resistance to opening the protective cover after being exposed to high temperatures.

For a more reliable opening, the PVC bag design was reengineered with a small slit placed near the ends of the red tear strip weld. Starting in 2021, production of new fire shelters and Defense Logistics Agency inventory incorporate this latest revision of the PVC bag. Equipment Advisory 21-01 has also been issued which recommends retrofitting of existing fire shelters in the field:

<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/committee/docs/etc-ea-2021-01.pdf>.

Required Action:

Retrofit National Interagency Support Caches (NISC) inventory using the instructions provided in Equipment Advisory 21-01. Although fire shelters are still considered serviceable in their current configuration, the retrofit of NISC inventory should be completed as soon as practicable.

- The *NWCG Standards for Fire Equipment Storage and Refurbishing*, PMS 448, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/448>, will be updated with inspection and enhancement criteria.

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