



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

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M-14-05

MEMORANDUM – 19 May 2014

TO: NWCG Executive Board, NWCG PMU Staff, NWCG Committee Chairs,

FROM: Dan Smith, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Smith".

SUBJECT: Fire Shelter Project Review

Fire Shelter Project Review

Recent fire shelter deployments and events in 2013 prompted Forest Service Washington Office Fire and Aviation Management (WO-FAM) to request acceleration of the lifecycle product review for the fire shelter and supporting components. WO-FAM requested that the U.S. Forest Service Technology and Development (T&D) Program initiate review of the fire shelter system in 2014 instead of 2015. The review will include the fire shelter, fireline pack, practice shelters and training. The T&D Program is working closely with NWCG's Fire Shelter Sub-committee to perform this lifecycle product review.

Fire Shelter Survey

One of the most important elements of the project review is to gather input from current firefighters about various aspects of the fire shelter and its use. The survey is designed to obtain the best understanding of firefighter's current perspective on this tool regarding its intended purpose, relative importance as a safety device, and the operational and physical considerations that should be reflected in its design.

The survey includes demographic questions about the responder's usual fire position, fireline pack weight, type of crew, and organization or agency. Additional questions include the current requirements for carrying a fire shelter, and firefighter behaviors and perceptions associated with carrying one. Questions on what performance or physical characteristics are desired in a future fire shelter and use policy are also included.

Completed surveys will be carefully analyzed to validate fire shelter functional parameters for the project review process, and results will also be used by the NWCG Fire Shelter Subcommittee and Fire and Aviation Management when considering the future of fire shelters and fire shelter policy.

The survey will only accept one response per computer internet protocol (IP) address and will remain open until June 28, 2014. Your answers will be kept confidential. All firefighters who are users of fire shelters are invited to complete the survey. Please distribute this message far and wide throughout your networks for as many survey responses as possible.

To Take The Fire Shelter Survey (link to): http://www.nifc.gov/fireShelt/fshelt_main.html

cc: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Managers, Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs