



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

NWCG Memorandum 19-001

May 14, 2019

TO: NWCG Executive Board Members

FROM: Garth Fisher, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garth Fisher", is positioned to the right of the "FROM:" line.

SUBJECT: Acceptance of the NWCG Equipment Technology Committee recommendation to retain use of the current fire shelter

This memorandum communicates the decision to accept the NWCG Equipment Technology Committee's (ETC) recommendation to retain use of the current fire shelter (M-2002, Forest Service Specification 5100-606).

The attached report, ETC-19-01, Outcome of the Fire Shelter Review Project, summarizes the five-year study conducted by the Forest Service National Technology and Development Program (NTDP) in coordination with the NWCG Fire Shelter Subcommittee (FSSC). The study indicates that the current fire shelter continues to provide the most practical amount of protection given the tradeoffs of weight, volume (bulk), durability, and material toxicity. Slight modifications will be made to the current design to use material more efficiently, as well as updating the fire shelter's polyvinyl chloride (PVC) bag to ensure a more reliable opening.

Wildland firefighters were first required to carry fire shelters as personal protective equipment in 1977. The NWCG member agencies have required the current model since 2010.

The Fire Shelter Review Project was initiated in 2014 as a joint effort between the NTDP and FSSC under the direction of NWCG Equipment and Technology Committee. The purpose of the review was to identify possible improvements to the fire shelter system carried by wildland firefighters.

Please distribute this information through your agency channels.

Attachments: ETC Memo 19-01 Outcome of Fire Shelter Review Project and Frequently Asked Questions about Fire Shelters

Distribution:

Chair, Equipment Technology Committee

Chair, Fire Shelter Subcommittee

Fire Shelter Project Leader, USDA National Technology Development Program (NTDP)

Chair, Fire Management Board

NIFC External Affairs

NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.