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Date: June 1, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Georgia Wildfire Cooperators

FROM: Monroe Gaines – GFC Safety & Training Manager

SUBJECT: “Old – Style” Fire Shelter Decommission

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) transmitted a Memorandum on June 20, 2007 to NWCG partners providing for the transition from the “old style” fire shelter to the “new generation” fire shelter. Transition to the new generation fire shelter by January 1, 2010 was agreed upon by all NWCG members (Georgia is an NWCG member).

Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) has the responsibility to inform all wildfire cooperators of this standard to decommission any old-style fire shelter currently in use and transition to new generation style fire shelters before the January 1, 2010 deadline. The old style shelters are to be taken completely out of service and disposed of properly.

NWCG and Georgia Forestry Commission acknowledges the role of local fire departments and other wildfire cooperators in Georgia, and recognizes the autonomy to define their own standards for personnel qualification and safety requirements. GFC does not mandate standards to be followed on initial attack or routine department operations.

The new generation fire shelter will be required for all wildland firefighter certification training, national mobilizations of fireline resources and for any resources mobilized outside of their local response area within the State of Georgia in response to requests for assistance from GFC. This would include extended attack or mutual aid wildfire situations when cooperating resources are officially assigned.

Disposal options have been identified which include recycling. Decommissioned shelters can be returned to a local GFC unit who will handle disposal and provide documentation of receipt for your file. Any additional option best suited to the local area is acceptable. The Agency Administrator should ensure that all old style shelters are no longer capable of being used as a fire shelter, and maintain documentation reflecting numbers and method of shelter decommission.

Attachment: Recycling Options

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Safety Programs-PPE-fire shelter transition

COOPERATOR OPTIONS FOR OLD STYLE FIRE SHELTER DISPOSAL

- **Old Style fire shelters can be returned to any County unit of the Georgia Forestry Commission – request a receipt for the number of shelters**
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- **Dispose of all material through regular trash process but all shelters must be removed from their polyvinyl bag and destroyed to some degree to ensure they cannot be used as a fire shelter.**

 - **Use old shelters in decent shape to:**
 - • Protect smaller structures such as bridges, signs and picnic tables
 - • As back-country campfire pans
 - • welding blankets
 - • Wrap coolers and juice troughs at fire camps to keep drinks cool
 - • Window shading in buildings/warehouses for cooling purposes

 - **For all options, Line Officer documents to the file that all old-style fire shelters have been taken out of service.**
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The following recycling options are up to the local organization to execute

1. Training Materials

- Booklets—recycle locally as magazines
- VCR Tapes—one-spot recycle opportunity

GreenDisc Recycle

Phone: 425-392-8700

Sammamish, WA

www.greendisc.com

- Local or regional units can contact GreenDisc Recycle to use its shipping containers
- 50 tapes cost \$30.

2. Practice shelter

Specification: 5100-611

Material: Polyethylene mesh and coating

Recycling options: one-spot recycle outlet

- JAD Core

Contact: Rob Doti

Phone: 812-234-2724

Terre Haute, IN

- Webbing must be removed.
- Bulk recycling only; can be received from multiple units during one designated month.
- Value: 20 cents/pound

Hard plastic liner

Specification: 5100-323

Material: High density Polyethylene (HDPE) #2 plastic

Recycling options: recycle outlets that accept #2 plastic are available in most cities.

- Where #2 plastic is recycled, it is usually accepted as a no cost/no value donation
- R&D Molders, the current supplier, may be a recycle source – cost involved

4. Fire shelter bag and practice shelter bag

Specification: 5100-608

Material: Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) #3 plastic

Recycling options: recycle outlets that accept #3 plastic are uncommon. A few companies will accept or sometimes pay for PVC in industrial quantities. Companies include Absolute Polymers, Inc. in Salem, OH; Viko Enterprises, Inc. in Salt Lake City, UT; Ultra-Poly Corp. in Portland, PA; or member companies of the National Recycling Network based in Cooper City, FL

- Red tear strips, nylon webbing, and Velcro must be removed before recycling
- Value: 10 cents/pound depending on recycling outlet

Carry case, practice shelter carry case

Specification: 5100-322

Nylon Fabric Specification: 5100-86

Material: Yellow and orange Cordura

Recycling options: No recycling outlet is available at this time. There may be some type of reuse option (firefighter lunch bag; gear bag; tool bag – permanently mark out “Fire Shelter” labeling on outside of bag).

- Contact Integrated Waste Services Association at www.wte.org for information about reuse of items as power for generators.

For all options, Line Officer documents to the file that all old-style fire shelters have been taken out of service. The form on the following page can be used for this record.



Fire Shelter Decommission Report 2009

All old-style fire shelters currently in use are to be taken completely out of service and disposed of properly by January 1, 2010. A copy of this form is to be maintained in the line officers file.

This form can also serve as a receipt for cooperators turning in old-style shelters to GFC for disposal.

Unit-District-Department-Cooperator (Name of owning unit)		Date Completed	
All "Old-Style" fire shelters in this unit have been decommissioned as of the above date, and in the following manner.			
Total number of old-style fire shelter units decommissioned. (number of items by type) →	Old Style Fire Shelter		Old Style Training Shelter
Explain below how the shelters were decommissioned in order to meet the standard of: <i>Shelters must be removed from their polyvinyl bag and destroyed to some degree to ensure they cannot be used as a fire shelter.</i>			
Completed by (Name – Print & Sign)		Position	

Options for disposal:

- **Dispose of all material through regular trash process - but all shelters must be removed from their polyvinyl bag and destroyed to some degree to ensure they cannot be used as a fire shelter (cut into square pieces, etc.).**
- **Use old shelters in decent shape to:**
 - Protect smaller structures such as bridges, signs and picnic tables
 - As back-country campfire pans
 - Welding blankets – emergency weather blankets – sleeping bag ground covers
 - Wrap coolers and juice troughs at fire camps to keep drinks cool
 - Window shading in buildings/warehouses / attic insulation / exposed pipe wrap for insulating purposes