



UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

26-082

May 14, 2026

TO: All Personnel

FROM: Assistant Chief Dern

SUBJECT: Fire Shelters

In late 2025, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Equipment Technology Committee released Equipment [Advisory 25-01](#) regarding pre-2006 fire shelter degradation and discontinuation of use. The advisory is attached to this memo and recommends the replacement of all pre-2006 fire shelters.

Generally, fire shelters do not have a fixed expiration date and are replaced based on condition and inspection criteria as outlined in the [NWCG Fire Shelter Inspection Flowchart](#).

Following the release of this advisory, an audit of all UFA fire shelters was conducted. The audit identified a significant number of shelters manufactured prior to 2006, as well as an uneven distribution of shelters and packs throughout the organization.

Operations and Logistics will work together to develop a replacement and redistribution plan for fire shelters and shelter packs. Fire shelters and packs will be distributed throughout the department as follows:

- Ladders will not carry fire shelter packs or shelters
- Engines will carry fire shelter packs and shelters for the number of crew members assigned to the apparatus
- Type 6 engines will carry the same number of packs and shelters as the heavy apparatus assigned to the station
- Water tenders will carry two fire shelter packs and shelters

Fire shelters remain an important safety tool and should be deployed only as a last resort after all other LCES measures have failed. Although differences in performance were identified between shelter generations during recent deployment evaluations, both shelters functioned as intended and protected the firefighters involved.

Until replacement can occur, pre-2006 shelters will remain in service on the apparatus. Personnel should continue to inspect shelters in accordance with NWCG guidance and report any signs of damage, degradation, or compromised packaging through the logistics ordering system.