



Forest
Service

Washington
Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

File Code: 5100/6700

Date: June 12, 2009

Route To:

Subject: Chainsaw/Crosscut Operations and First Aid Kit (Belts)

To: Regional Foresters

A recent Serious Accident Investigation found that the Type IV Belt first aid kit (NFES 1143) does not meet requirements in Forest Service (FS) Handbook (FSH) 6709.11.22.48a (OSHA Logging Standard 29 CFR 1910.266 Appendix A). NFES 1143 is missing two large gauze pads (at least 8x10 inches.)

The FS has established a specification for this first aid kit, which is available through the General Services Administration (GSA). Upon notice of the accident investigation findings, the specification has been adjusted to include the two gauze pads. However, until GSA depletes its current inventory, first aid kits purchased from GSA may not contain the pads. Any NFES 1143s purchased through GSA must have the contents checked and if the pads are missing, they must be ordered through regular local purchasing processes. We will work with the National Interagency Support Caches to make additions; however, this will not be completed within the current fire season. At a minimum, units conducting chain saw and cross cut operations must supplement these first aid kits as quickly as possible.

Please share this direction with your units to ensure adequate equipping for individuals carrying the NFES 1143 – especially an employee who uses a chainsaw or crosscut saw in the performance of their job.

If you have any questions concerning this, please contact Gary Helmer at ghelmer@fs.fed.us or 703-605-5139; or Larry Sutton at lsutton@fs.fed.us or 208-387-5970.

/S/ ROBIN L. THOMPSON (FOR)

JAMES E. HUBBARD

Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry

cc: Tory Henderson, Larry Sutton, Ralph Dorn



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