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## Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group

May 20, 2020

The PNWCG Training Committee understands that each agency is implementing their own guidance to support the recommendations provided in the Fire Management Board (FMB) memorandum 20-001.

However, the training committee would like to support those efforts by providing general information that has been gathered from a few of those agency recommendations.

This information does not supersede any directives that individual agencies may implement.

### **Fire Shelter and Work Capacity Test**

FMB Memo 20-001 recommends:

Fire Shelter: The fire shelter training should be implemented using a standard fire shelter that no longer meets service parameters or a practice fire shelter as a one-person, one-time use.

Work Capacity Test (WCT): Required to complete any related light, moderate, or arduous work capacity test.

- Discourage reuse or sharing of pack test vests.
- Encourage use of weight appropriate bladder bags or individually issued fireline packs.

The following information is intended to provide minimum cleaning/disinfection and social distancing practices for Wildfire activities related to training (including but not limited to) fire shelter deployment and Work Capacity Testing (WCT).

Each topic is discussed in detail below. Please note that this information may change at any time if/when new direction or directives are provided by the Center for Disease Control.

## Suggestions to Consider:

### Fire Shelter

- Gloves must be worn for the shelter training.
- If reusing shelters, disinfect and wait at least 2-4 days between uses. The equipment shall be “quarantined” between uses unless acceptable disinfecting options are approved.
- When using shelters between practice deployments, follow cleaning and disinfecting-guidance.
- Follow CDC recommendations regarding social distancing, provide hand sanitizer and tissues and other sanitary supplies in the classroom or at the fire shelter proficiency test site.
- If the practice fire shelter (shelter) surfaces are dirty (dirt, mud, etc.), they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. Once cleaned allow them to completely dry.
- Once the shelter is completely dry or if washing is not required, disinfection can begin.
- Disinfection must occur after each use and be fully completed before utilized for another test.
- Many disinfectants are effective against virus and bacteria (including the virus causing COVID-19).

**Note:** A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

- Regardless of the disinfectant used, PPE must be worn when performing the cleaning and the manufacturer’s instructions for concentration, application, method and contact time, etc. must be followed. Ensure that all surfaces are disinfected.
- This includes the inside and outside of the shelter, the shelter case, and all straps, etc. If possible, the use of a small chemical applicator (spray bottle) may allow for easier application and help ensure that all surfaces are properly disinfected.
- After the appropriate contact time has been met, do not re-clean or wipe down the shelter, as this may undo/remove the disinfectant that was applied.
- Once complete, the shelter should be re-folded by the next user to reduce the chance of/prevent as much as possible cross contamination from one user to the next.
- Please keep in mind that the routinely disinfecting, specifically wiping down these shelters may cause them to degrade faster, specifically the printed side.
- Shelter deployments can only occur in group size that are within the allowable social gathering numbers and in locations where people can stay at least 12 feet away. Please note that this distance is larger than the recommended 6 feet as people will be or will need to move as they deploy their shelter.
- All individuals being tested using the shelters should wear appropriate PPE. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after using any shelter regardless if you had gloves or not.

If any of the above conditions cannot be met, practice shelter deployment should not take place until all conditions are met.

## **Work Capacity Test (WCT)**

- DO NOT reuse or share pack test vests unless disinfected and wait at least 2-4 days between uses with the equipment “quarantined” between uses.
- Encourage use of weight appropriate bladder bags or individually issued fireline packs.
- If using WCT vests, start all testing with vests that have NOT been used or handled since last fire season OR have been laundered since the previous testing as described below.
- In between uses WCT vests must be disinfected using the following practices.
- If the WCT vest surfaces are dirty (dirt, mud, etc.), they should be cleaned using a detergent or, soap and water prior to disinfection. Once cleaned allow them to completely dry.
- Once the WCT vest is completely dry or if washing is not required, disinfection can begin.
- Disinfection must occur after each use and be fully completed before utilized for another test.
- There are many disinfectants that are effective against the virus and bacteria (including the virus causing COVID-19).

**Note:** A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

- Regardless of the disinfectant used, PPE must be worn when performing the cleaning and the manufacturer's instructions for concentration, application, method and contact time, etc. must be followed.
- Ensure that all surfaces are disinfected. This includes the inside and outside of the vest and all components. If possible, the use of a small chemical applicator (spray bottle) may allow for easier application and help ensure that all surfaces are properly disinfected.
- After the appropriate contact time has been met, do not re-clean or wipe down the WCT vest, as this may undo/remove the disinfectant that was applied.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after using any WCT vest regardless if you had gloves or not.
- After WCT is complete for the day, each vest should be cleaned as outlined below, regardless of/if the vest overall appearance (i.e. even if it looks clean). The only exception to this would be if a vest was not used.

## **Linens, Clothing, and Other items That Go in the Laundry**

- Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an ill person can be washed with other people's items.
- Do not shake dirty laundry; this minimizes the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
- Clean and disinfect hampers or other carts for transporting laundry according to guidance above for shelters.

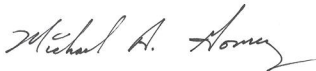
Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash. If gowns are not available, raincoats/pants or rain bibs can be used as an alternative.

- Gloves or gowns should be compatible with the disinfectant products being used.
- Additional PPE might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash. For this information refer to the product SDS for the specific product being used.
- Gowns should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area.
- If raincoat/pants or raincoat and rain bibs are used instead of a gown, remove them carefully to avoid contamination.
- Remove gloves after removing all contamination barriers (gowns or rain gear noted above).
- Once removed, ensure any reusable equipment (rain gear) is properly disinfected at this time following the manufacturer's instructions for concentration, application, method and contact time, etc. If possible, the use of a small chemical applicator (spray bottle) may allow for easier application and help ensure that all surfaces are properly disinfected. After the appropriate contact time has been met, do not re-clean or wipe down the raincoat or rain pants/bibs, as this may undo/remove the disinfectant that was applied.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

If any of the above conditions cannot be met, WCT vests should not be used and Work Capacity Tests should not take place until all conditions are met.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



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