



New Fireline Explosives

Jim Tour, Project Engineer

Four new fireline explosives products have been tested for use on prescribed burns and wildfires. These tests were conducted by the Missoula Technology and Development Center and the Bureau of Mines.

ETI Firebreak, IRECO Fireline 6000, Austin Pyroline, and Atlas RXL 079 explosives were laboratory- and field-tested in accordance with the procedures adopted by the National Fireline Explosives Subcommittee of

NWCG and compared with the currently used **Ensign-Bickford** det cord. The intent of the tests is to insure that these explosives are safe, reliable, and can effectively build fireline.



Two new explosives products are now fully approved and are on the Qualified Products List.



ETI Firebreak

ETI Firebreak—A water gel det cord supplied in an 80-foot length on a wooden spool. Case weight is 55 pounds; density is .60 pounds/foot. This product reliably initiates with a No.8 cap or exploding Bridgewire Detonator (EBW) at 32°F and above. This product can be ordered from:

*Explosives Technologies
International
13650 N Government Way
Hayden Lake, ID 83835
(800) 922-8544 (OR, WA,
ID, and MT)
(208) 722-3232*

IRECO Fireline 6000—A water gel det cord supplied in an 80-foot length on a wooden spool. Case weight is 55 pounds; density is .60 pounds/foot. This product reliably initiates with a No.8 cap or an EBW down to 5°F. The product can be ordered from:

*W.H. Burt
Explosives, Inc.
P.O. Box 850
Moab, UT 84522
(801) 259-7181*



IRECO Fireline 6000

This product is the original Fireline Explosive used by the Forest Service and is on the Qualified Product List.

Ensign-Bickford 7-Strand—1,400 grain per foot det cord, PETN with a (DAP) surround. Supplied in boxed spools to 100 foot lengths. Case weight is 71 pounds; density is 71 lb/100-foot. This product reliably initiates with a No.8 cap or EBW at any temperature and is also supplied in 4 strand. This product has been approved since the 1970's and serves as the standard for comparing new products. It can be ordered from:

*The Ensign-Bickford
Company
10288 W Chatfield Av
Suite 209
Littleton, CO 80127
(509) 466-3846*



Ensign-Bickford 7-Strand

An additional product is under going further field tests before it can be placed on the Qualified Products List.



Austin Pyroline

Austin Pyroline—An emulsion used in conjunction with 50 grain/foot det cord. This product is folded and supplied boxed in 86-foot lengths. Case weight is 50 pounds; density is .58 pounds/foot. This product reliably initiates with a No.8 cap or Exploding Bridgewire Detonator (EBW) at temperatures down to 0°F.

This product was not approved.

Atlas RXL 079—An emulsion packaged and supplied similar to water gels. This product was not approved for use because of deployment problems encountered during the FY 1990 field test.



Atlas RXL 079

New products will continue to be tested as part of the National Fireline Explosives Program. For information, contact:

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