



## 55-Gallon Suppression Water Bag

Kevin Lee, Forestry Technician

Water delivery for wildland fire suppression purposes has always presented difficulties to the firefighter, especially off-road along firelines. When hoselays are impractical or impossible, or there are no water sources nearby, backpack pumps become the next best alternative. In order to provide a supply of water for refilling the backpack pumps, Missoula Technology & Development Center (MTDC) has developed a 55-gallon suppression water bag that can be long lined by helicopter to remote spots along the fireline.

The maximum designed weight of the 55-gallon bag when full is 500 ±20 lbs, which precludes down-loading in high/density altitude situations. Also, two 55-gallon suppression water bags can be carried in the back of a pickup truck, where they can be utilized as refill stations for 5-gallon backpack pumps, or configured for direct mop-up, using the 3/4-inch garden hose attachment and synthetic garden hose.

The 55-gallon suppression water bag has a tough, durable outer bag made of nylon duck, and a replaceable polyvinyl chloride (PVC) inner liner. In keeping with the standardized system of color-coding, the suppression water bag is yellow, with "NOT FOR DRINKING" stenciled on the bag. The inner liner can be field patched, using tape, or repaired back at the cache, using a waterbed patching kit. Cache managers will find that the new bags are economical to refurbish and take up less storage space.

The bag comes with accessories designed to facilitate the refilling of 5-gallon backpack suppression water bags or constructing hoselays. All the necessary fittings, hose and instructions are packed in a zippered, external pocket on the outer bag. Another attractive feature is the availability of replacement



Water bags are designed for transporting by helicopter or vehicle.

parts for most of the hardware, either locally or from several sources identified in the user instructions. Plastic replacement liners are available from GSA and fire caches. NSN and NFES numbers are:

Description	NSN
55-gallon Suppression Water Bag (NFES #0437)	8465-01-369-2148
55-gallon Suppression Bag Liner (NFES #0438)	8465-01-369-2149

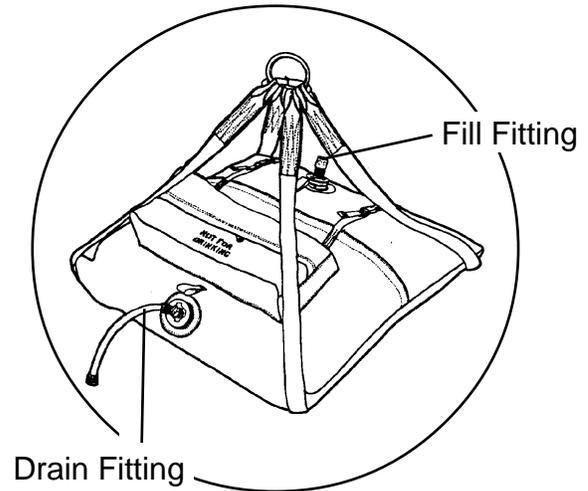




The suppression water bag is made of heavy nylon duck to ensure its durability.



Bags can be filled with a large diameter hose or with a garden hose.



For further information, contact

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