

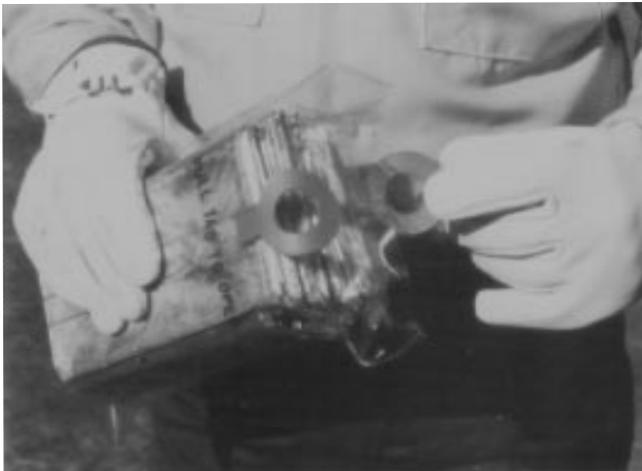


Improved Bag Design Provides Easier Fire Shelter Access

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As a result of several years of reviewing fire shelter deployments, the Missoula Technology and Development Center fire equipment staff has added a second red pull-ring to the protective plastic bag that holds the fire shelter and has changed the tear strip so it runs completely around the bag from pull-ring to pull-ring. On the current single pull-ring bags, the tear strip ends at the bottom of the bag. These design improvements make it easier to open the bag while wearing gloves. When the tear strip is completely removed, the fire shelter almost falls out the bottom of the bag.

The two pull-rings make bag openings more reliable. Should one pull-ring fail or one end of the tear strip not separate easily from the bag, the second pull-ring can be used. Double pull-rings also mean that if one side of the bag is exposed to too much radiant heat, which causes the plastic to stretch instead of tear, the bag can still be opened with the pull-ring on the unexposed side.



New plastic bag has two red pull-rings for more reliable openings.



The tear strip runs around the entire bag from one pull-ring to the other.





When the tear strip is peeled off, the fire shelter is fully accessible.

Double pull-ring plastic bags will be standard issue on fire shelters manufactured beginning in 1995. Because shelters with the one pull-ring design will be in service for years, it is important that firefighters know which type of fire shelter bag they are carrying so they can initiate the appropriate opening sequence in an emergency.

Also beginning in 1995, all shelter components - shelter, plastic bag, liner, and carrying case - will comply with the National Fire Protection Association wildland fire equipment standard (NFPA 1977-1993).

Note that fire shelters manufactured before 1995 offer the same level of protection as the new shelters and do not have to be replaced until they begin showing wear.
