



Wildland Fire Chemical Systems General Information – What We Do



The Wildland Fire Chemical Systems (WFCS) program compiles technical information developed during fire chemical product evaluations and provides that information in forms that are useful to the field and the general public.

All wildland fire chemical products must go through an extensive evaluation before they are qualified for use by federal firefighting agencies. The evaluation, performed by the Wildland Fire Chemicals program at MTDC, includes test to determine:

- Uniform and intergranular corrosion
- Product stability
- Fire retarding effectiveness
- Physical parameters
- Mammalian toxicity including oral toxicity (ingestion), dermal toxicity (absorption through skin), eye irritation, and skin irritation
- Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments are performed, using the data from the toxicity tests and material safety data sheets (MSDS)

From this information, user guides and information sheets are prepared. These fact sheets are typically 1 or 2 pages long and provide information frequently requested by user groups and the general public.

Much of the performance information developed during product evaluations is also compiled in a “consumer report” type format to provide information to field users in a form that allows easy comparison of multiple products.

Fire Chemical information is summarized for inclusion into the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book), the Fireline Handbook, the Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG), and Job Aids for use in the field and in training classes.

Program personnel participate in local, regional, and national training sessions to provide the information in a useful format in the context of the training.

Most of the information developed is compiled and posted on our web site which is available to agency users and the general public.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/fire/wfcs/index.htm>