



S-130 Unit 16: Fire Shelters

Summary:

The fire shelter has been required equipment for wildland firefighters since 1977. The intent of this unit is to introduce students to the purpose and appropriate use of the fire shelter.

Deployment demonstrations in this unit should be done by cadre members. Students will be tasked with demonstrating practice fire shelter deployment as part of the Unit 18 Incident Exercise.

Incident Position Description (IPD) Alignment:

This unit aligns with the following FFT2 IPD specific duties (<https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft2/position-ipd>):

- Ensure that instructions are clear and understood.
- Comply with all safety practices and procedures.
- Acquire, analyze, and use relevant situational information to make more informed decisions and take appropriate actions.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Describe deployment site characteristics and how they differ from a safety zone.
- Discuss the purpose of fire shelters and how to correctly deploy.
- Describe the necessity of using a practice shelter.
- Discuss the inspection and care of the fire shelter.
- Discuss the correct deployment procedures for the fire shelter.

Unit at a Glance:

Topics	Method	Duration
Purpose and Use	Presentation	35 Minutes
Deployment Procedures	Presentation	25 Minutes
Total Unit Duration		1 Hour



Materials:

- Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG), PMS 461, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>.
- The New Generation Fire Shelters, PMS 411, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/411>.
- Practice fire shelters.
- Notebook for participants.
- S-130 Student Evaluation Task Sheet.
- Ability to display images and video on large screen.
- White board or easel access for group breakouts.

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- Review unit objectives.

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Pre-Video Discussion

- Discuss that the fire shelter is a mandatory item of PPE for all federal wildland firefighters and must be carried on the fireline by everyone on federal wildland fires.
- Direct students to refer to Last Resort Survival in the Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG), PMS 461, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>, and follow along during the video.
- Play Video**

Title The New Generation Fire Shelter, <https://youtu.be/IDjWX-8SCe0>

Summary An in-depth discussion on the fire shelter

Time (25:25)

Audio

Post-Video Discussion

- Discuss the two most important functions of the fire shelter:
 - Reflects radiant heat. It is not designed for direct flame contact.
 - Provide cooler, breathable air to protect the lungs and airway.
- Discuss elements of Last Resort Survival in the IRPG that students or cadre feel were not addressed in the video.

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Exercise

- Assign all available cadre members, each with a practice shelter, to come to the front of the class.
- Task assigned cadre members with demonstrating practice fire shelter deployment.
- Task assigned cadre members with demonstrating refolding the practice fire shelter.

Note to Instructor

- Deployment demonstrations in this unit should be done by cadre members. Students will be tasked with demonstrating practice fire shelter deployment as part of the Unit 18 Incident Exercise.
- Detailed information to aid instructor preparation and facilitation is available on the Fire Shelter and Personal Protective Equipment Subcommittee website, <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/fire-shelter-and-personal-protective-equipment-subcommittee>.
- The New Generation Fire Shelter, PMS 411, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/411>.

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Review unit objectives.