



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Fire Shelter Use Instructions

You must be fully trained in proper use of this shelter before working in the fire area.

The fire shelter training booklet (NFES 2710) and training video (VHS NFES 2711, DVD NFES 2712) are available at <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs.htm>.

1. Pick the largest available clearing. Avoid saddles, chimneys, and draws; avoid **anything** that will burn.
2. Wear gloves, hardhat and, if you have one, a face and neck shroud. Throw packs, fusees, chain saws, and gas far from your deployment site.
3. Scrape away flammable litter—if time permits.
4. Pull the red ring to tear off the plastic bag.



5. Grasp the shake handles (**LEFT HAND, black** lettering—**RIGHT HAND, red** lettering).



6. Shake until the shelter is unfolded. In **windy** conditions, lie on the ground to unfold the shelter.



7. Lie face down in the shelter. Keep your feet toward the oncoming fire. Push out the sides for more protection from the heat. Slip your arms through the holddown straps on the shelter floor. Keep your mouth near the ground.



Shelter is cut away to show body position.

Reminders...

- Inspect the shelter on a regular basis.
- Follow the inspection criteria outlined in the training booklet (NFES 2710).
- Do not open the shelter's clear plastic bag during inspections.
- You **MUST BE ON THE GROUND** when the fire arrives!
- After the fire has cooled, pick the safest area and wait for help.
- Watch for falling snags and rolling rocks!