



**United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER  
3833 SOUTH DEVELOPMENT AVENUE  
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5354**

July 13, 2009

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors, All Regions  
Attention: Wildland Fire Management  
Agency Superintendents  
Fuels Management

From: Director, Branch of Wildland Fire Management

Subject: Chainsaw Chap Standards

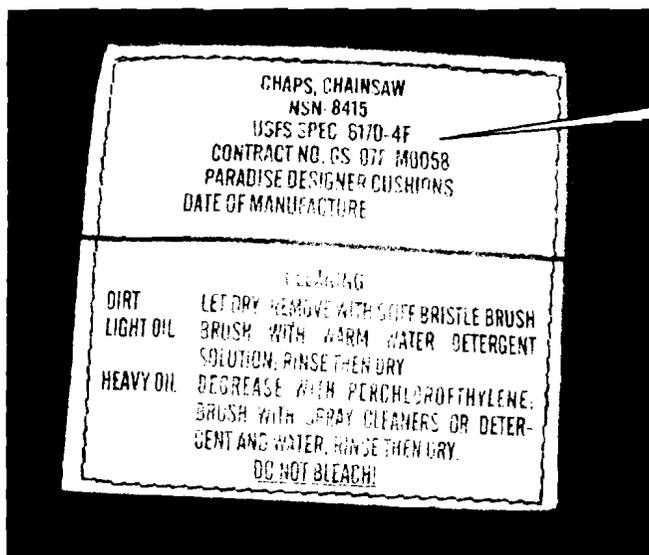
Please ensure wide distribution of this memorandum to field units and chain saw operators.

A recent United States Forest Service (USFS) Safety Alert (NO. 2009-01), regarding chainsaw chaps, indicated chainsaw chaps meeting USFS Specification 6170-4E do not meet the USFS agency standard for cut resistance and coverage area. Chainsaw chaps meeting USFS Specification 6170-4F provide a higher degree of protection in terms of cut resistance and a larger coverage area on the legs.

The direction for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) can be found in the 2009 Wildland Fire and Aviation Program Management and Operations Guide (Blue Book) on page 9-14, which states chaps must meet the NFPA 1977, Standards for Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Firefighting, or FS 6170-4 specification. This policy can be accessed at: <http://www.nifc.gov/policies/blue/Ch9Safety.pdf>.

The BIA recognizes the importance of employee safety. Therefore, fire programs should begin phasing in chainsaw chaps that meet USFS Specification 6170-4F, which meets or exceeds NFPA 1977 specifications. All 6170-4E chaps must be replaced by January 1, 2011 using local support funds.

Chainsaw chaps specification can be identified by the label on the inside of the leg as seen in the photo below. Chaps meeting USFS Specification 6170-4F have black colored webbing and trim and are either green or orange in color.



**USFS Specification 6170-4F**

Label

Chainsaw chaps shall be maintained in accordance with MTDC Publication, *Inspecting and Repairing Your Chain Saw Chaps—User Instructions (0567-2816-MTDC)*, which can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf05672816/pdf05672816dpi300.pdf>.

Please contact Tony Beitia, NIFC Wildland Fire Safety Specialist at 208.387.5177, or via email at [tony\\_beitia@nifc.gov](mailto:tony_beitia@nifc.gov) for questions, or more information.