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## IMPORTANT WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY EQUIPMENT REPLACED

McKinleyville, CA – The Arcata Fire District firefighters were able to replace important wildland safety equipment this week thanks to the Arcata Volunteer Firefighters Association (AVFA). AVFA was able to secure a \$10,000 grant from the California Fire Foundation, which was used to purchase 27 wildland fire shelters, which have replaced the nearly 15-year-old shelters, currently possessed.

Wildland fire shelters are a crucial piece to the personal protective equipment (PPE) ensemble needed by all firefighters who fight wildland fires. These shelters are a last resort safety device of used by firefighters if they become trapped by wildfires. “We were able to replace the aging shelters for all of our career and volunteer firefighters,” Fire Chief Justin McDonald stated, “however, I hope they never have to use them.”

Arcata Fire District continues to be grateful to the AVFA for their continued role as advocates, grant writers and donors. “The current President of the AVFA, Rob Cannon, spends a great deal of his own personal time to seek and write grants whose sole purpose is to benefit our fire district. The generosity of his unpaid time cannot be recognized enough.”

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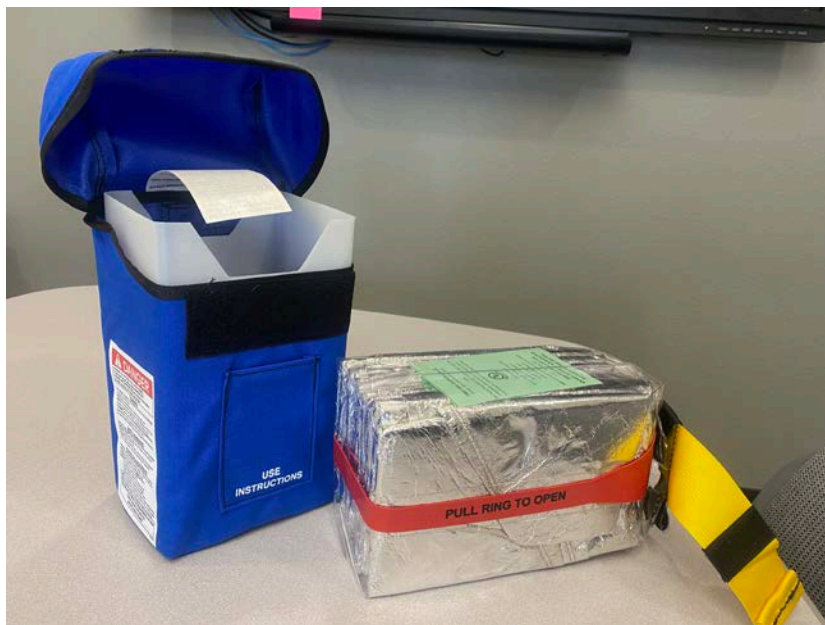
See attached photos



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The standard-issue emergency fire shelter, from a Forest Service handbook on their use. Courtesy US Forest Service



The shelter with carrying case



Captain Ross McDonald and Firefighter Anthony Benelisha receiving the shelter shipment.