

QUESTIONNAIRE
Firefighters Field Pack

Name	Date
Crew	
Agency	
Field Location	State

After a reasonable field evaluation, how do you rate the firefighters field pack system?

- ☐ Excellent
☐ Very Good
☐ Fair
☐ Poor

Please comment on changes, if any, you would like in the components of the firefighters field pack:

HARNESS—

EQUIPMENT BELT—

PACK—

CANTEEN CASE—

(if additional space is required, use separate sheet of paper)

Return questionnaire to:
Ted Putnam, USDA Forest Service, Equipment Development
Center, Building 1, Fort Missoula, Missoula MT 59801

CLIP & MAIL (after your field evaluation of the firefighters field pack)

About the firefighters field pack...



The Missoula Equipment Development Center obtained design ideas for the field pack through a Servicewide survey. Respondents indicated that the cruiser vests, military packs, and commercial day packs currently in use were inadequate. They felt firefighters needed an entirely new pack design to meet their needs on the fireline.

So MEDC developed a new load carrying system. The field pack includes many ideas from field people who responded to the survey and sent prototype packs. Dave Nani, parachute loft foreman at the Northern California Smokejumper Base, Redding, Calif., provided several key ideas.

The field pack provides firefighters with a versatile system that enables them to carry all necessary equipment to sustain themselves on the fireline.

The field pack is designed so the firefighter carries a major share of the load on the equipment belt. The energy cost of lifting and supporting a load on your back while digging fireline or mopping up is significant. Military studies tell us that people can work and maneuver best with loads concentrated about the hips.

On hot days, gear can be shifted to the equipment belt and the pack sack removed to promote upper body cooling and prevent premature fatigue.

LOADING THE SYSTEM: An important rule of thumb for loading your field pack is to divide the weight you carry equally between the pack and equipment belt. When you put more weight in the pack than on the equipment belt, the chest strap will ride up on your chest, causing discomfort. We suggest that you experiment with different loading combinations to find one that feels best for you before wearing the field pack on the fireline.

USER INSTRUCTIONS

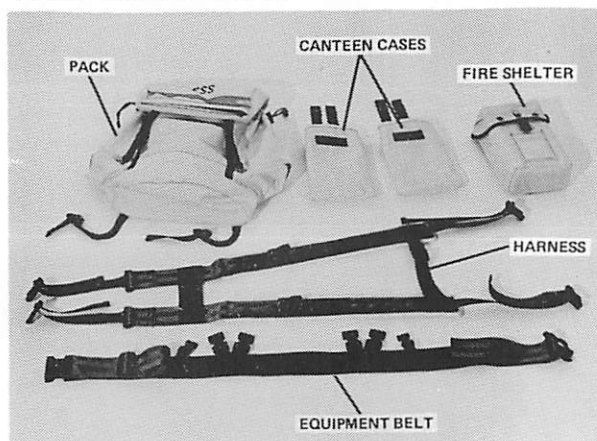
FIREFIGHTERS FIELD PACK



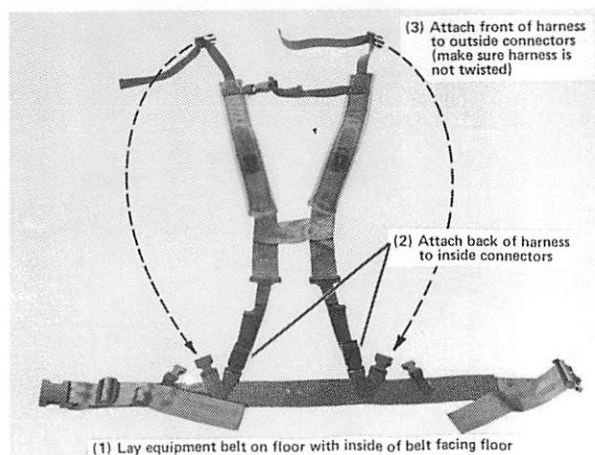
The firefighters field pack is designed for the wild land firefighter. The field pack consists of: (1) pack, (2) harness, (3) equipment belt, (4) two canteen cases, and (5) fire shelter. The field pack allows firefighters to carry all on-line essentials in an efficient, nonrestrictive manner.

Understanding how to assemble, adjust, and load the field pack system will greatly enhance your satisfaction with it.

PACK COMPONENTS



ASSEMBLY AND ADJUSTMENT



- (4) Put harness on and adjust belt to a comfortable position about 2 inches below your waist. Connect waist buckle and adjust to fit.

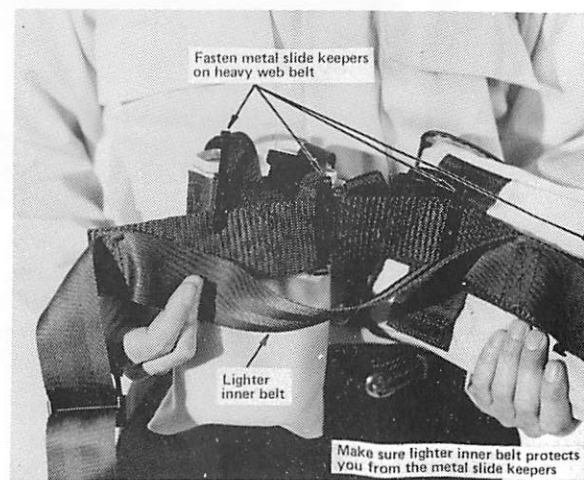
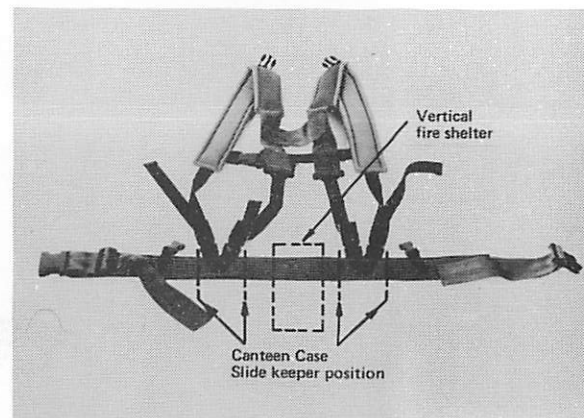
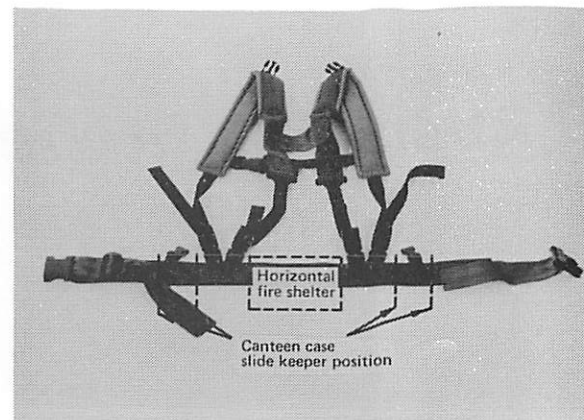


- (5) Take up slack in front harness straps. With the help of a partner do the same for back harness straps, leaving enough slack so belt does not rise when you bend forward.

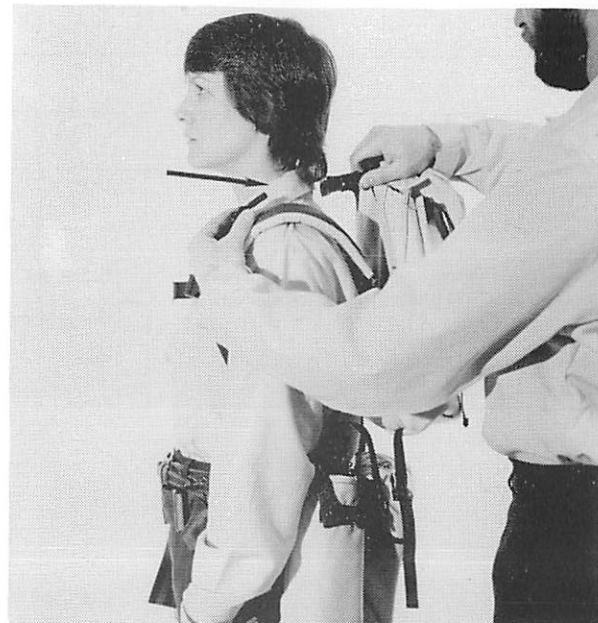
- (6) Attach fire shelter either vertically or horizontally with metal slide keepers.



- (7) Attach canteen cases with metal slide keepers.



- (8) Have partner hold pack by handle and attach pack to harness.



- (9) Attach bottom pack straps to equipment belt. Adjust straps so pack does not sway, but they are loose enough so belt does not rise when you bend forward.

