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Subject: Reducing Fuel Geysering - Update

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Directors

This memorandum provides updated information and new procurement direction that supersedes procurement direction in the March 21, 2018, memorandum: “*Reducing Fuel Geysering; Suspending Stihl Chainsaw Purchases.*”

Fuel geysering incidents continue to be reported. In 2017, there were 25 fuel geysering incident reports (20 chainsaws, 2 backpack leaf blowers, 2 fuel containers, 1 ATV). From May through July 2018, we have received 15 fuel geysering incident reports (12 chainsaws, 1 leaf blower, and 2 fuel containers).

U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service testing determined a fuel geysering incident is more likely to occur when equipment fuel tank pressure exceeds four pounds per square inch (psi). To date, all engine-driven portable equipment fuel geysering incidents validated by the Forest Service occurred with equipment that do not maintain fuel tank pressure below four psi.

Therefore, the new procurement direction is to stop procurement of any engine-driven portable equipment that does not automatically maintain fuel tank pressure under four psi—this includes chainsaws and leaf blowers. The National Technology and Development Program (NTDP) is available to help identify compatible models and provide more information.

I want to emphasize ways you can proactively protect our volunteers and employees:

- **Be aware.** Fuel geysering can occur anytime there is fuel, heat, and pressure. It is not just chainsaws—geysering occurs with fuel bottles, leaf blowers, fuel cans, and other multi-position small engines. Anticipate anytime you open a fuel cap, a geysering event could occur. Therefore, **never** remove a fuel cap anywhere near an ignition source.
- **Be informed.** Visit the fuel geysering website for the recent/current information: <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/equipment-technology-committee>.
- **Be engaged.** Report all incidents of geysering. This will help continue to define the conditions causing these events: <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/equipment-technology-committee/fuel-geyser-incident-reporting-form>.



Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Directors

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If you need additional information, please contact Ralph Gonzales, NTDP Fire Portfolio Manager, at (909) 929-7059, or by email at rhgonzales@fs.fed.us.

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