

WILDLAND FIRE CHEMICALS

8400

(September 2003)

INTRODUCTION

8401

(No. 2 November 2004)

Wildland fire control agencies in the United States annually use over 23 million gallons of aerially-delivered fire retardant, representing a cost for material alone of approximately \$17 million. Of that total, CDF accounts for of 4.9 million gallons annually, at a cost of \$3.52 million.

Also, CDF and the other wildland fire agencies throughout the United States annually use millions of gallons water treated with foams, water-enhancing gels and elastomers, and other fire retarding or suppressing chemicals.

This handbook describes the characteristics of many types of wildland fire suppressant and retardant chemicals, including specifications, manufacturer product submission process, departmental use policy, field quality control, and product performance guides.

Most of the information in this chapter has been derived from publications issued by the US Forest Service's Wildland Fire Chemical Systems (WFCS) program. Other information has been derived from manufacturer's information and from CDF field evaluation of products conducted by the CDF Wildland Fire Chemicals Program manager. Policy statements have been approved by the CDF Deputy Director for Fire Protection.

CDF POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF WILDLAND FIRE CHEMICALS

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(No. 2 November 2004)

CDF is environmentally conscious and intends to use only fire chemicals that do not pose a hazard to humans, animals, plants, or to their environment. For that reason CDF will only use fire chemicals that have been approved and listed on the US Forest Service Wildland Fire Chemical Systems program's "Qualified Products List" (QPL). This policy applies to all CDF fire protection operations, including those conducted on behalf of federal, state, and local government agencies via contract.

CDF also prefers to use only those retardant products that do not contain any chemicals, chemical compounds, or by-products which are listed on the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's current "Proposition 65 Chemicals List".

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