



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

March 25, 2003

Memorandum

To: NWCG Members
GACG Chairs

From: NWCG Chair */s/J L Stires*

Subject: Supplemental Food Policy

In response to many concerns regarding the escalating cost of large fires, the NWCG tasked the Incident Business Practices and Safety and Health Working Teams with reviewing and making recommendations on supplemental food policy. Their findings and recommendations were discussed at the 86th NWCG Meeting held in Boise, Idaho during the week of January 27, 2003. NWCG approved the supplemental food policy as specified in the attached supplemental food policy, dated March 10, 2003.

NWCG Supplemental Food Policy, dated March 10, 2003

Absent a more restrictive agency or geographic area policy, the following supplemental foods may be provided:

- 1) Fruit **OR** dried fruit **OR** fruit juice and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables should be in-season, available locally and reasonably priced to avoid excessive costs and difficulty in procurement.
- 2) Liquid supplements in the form of sports drinks or mixes that provide electrolytes and meet the carbohydrate solution mixes recommended in *Feeding the Wildland Firefighter**. Bottled water may be provided.

In addition to the fruit and liquid supplements, candy bars and energy bars may be provided to supplement those included in sack lunches. The objective is to provide for an average of 1000 kilocalories of solid supplements per firefighter per day.

- ✘ Any supplemental foods provided will require IC justification AND concurrence from the Agency Administrator. The only acceptable justification for providing supplemental foods is to meet the expanded nutritional needs of firefighters performing prolonged or arduous work. Supplemental foods are not authorized for mobilization centers, staging areas or personnel not engaged in work on the incident. "Incident Base and Camp meals" provide adequate dietary needs for most work situations.*
- ✘ No other supplemental food or drinks shall be authorized. Purchasing jerky products, chips, gum, soda-pop, "designer drinks" and so-called "energy" drinks (containing caffeine, guarana, ephedra, and other stimulants, etc.) are not allowed under this policy. Special or cultural dietary needs will be met through the National Mobile Food Contract or catered meals and not through this policy.

*From: Sharkey, Brian, et al., *Feeding the Wildland Firefighter*, Fire Tech Tips, July 2002 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/>)