



NFFE Forest Service Council
Safety Committee Update - National Safety
Boot Reimbursement Program

June 12, 2015



Please share the following communication with your Bargaining Unit Employees (BUEs).

Possible Reply Due June 30, 2015

Local Union Officials:

Last week Forest Service Council (FSC) Melissa Baumann sent the attached June 5, 2015, **6500 National Safety Boot Reimbursement Program** letter out to Locals giving the field an opportunity to submit information for consideration to be included in what is considered Specialized Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The letter has a **Reply Due Date of June 30, 2015**, and has been sent to FS mailrooms for distribution through official channels.

This communication is to reinforce the information Melissa provided and add some additional information from the FSC Safety Committee Chair Randy Meyer.

If you have questions about whether boots should be (1) purchased by the Agency; i.e., with a purchase card and the boots belong to the Agency, or (2) purchased through the reimbursement program (purchased by the employee, reimbursed by the Agency, and the boots belong to the employee), see the attached letter. In addition, if your unit has footwear that you believe should be considered for option (1) above, be sure that your Line Officers respond to this call. This is how we get other specialized PPE onto the list of things that AQM won't croak over purchasing for employees.

Please include the Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) or Risk Assessment (RA) that is used to justify the purchase of PPE. This is how we get other specialized PPE onto the list of things that AQM will accept for safety item purchasing for our employees.

Examples of additional footwear that may be considered as Specialized PPE, include descriptive information (**Identified hazard, abatement actions taken to mitigate the hazard and as a last resort PPE to protect the employee from injury from a line-officer signed JHA or RA**) need to be sent by **COB June 30, 2015**) to:

Rico Clarke
Director, Financial Policy Staff, Chief Financial Officer, Washington Office

rclarke@fs.fed.us

For questions regarding this, please contact Rico Clarke via email (rclarke@fs.fed.us) or call him at 703-605-4938.

Types of Specialized PPE footwear could include (but not inclusive):

- Chemical resistant rubber boots,
- Hip Waders,
- Chest Waders,
- Felt bottom boots,

Metatarsal foot protection

Also attached is a chart that might help employees understand where PPE stands in keeping them injury free.

Sincerely,

/s/ Randy Meyer

RANDY MEYER, Chair
NFFE FSC Safety Committee

~ The End ~

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