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FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group
REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov
DATE : 08/27/2002
SUBJECT : SAFETY ADVISORY : Securing Large Tent Shelters

Had a situation at a large fire, which shall remain unnamed at this time, where a NFES 0549 20 foot shelter system lifted off, damaged three vehicles and smashed up against a water tender. The shelter system was virtually destroyed beyond economical repair. The point is this shelter was not staked or secured to the ground. The new tents come with pins that allow you to pin or stake the frame to the ground. The roof panel has grommets for attachment of lanyards which can further secure the tent to the surface. Many camps are set up in wind prone area's and all of these should be secured. The manufacturer states that if properly staked it will withstand some pretty intense winds. The vehicles that were damaged could of been people. This was an expensive lesson as this will cost the incident in the neighborhood of \$3,500.00 to replace the shelter in kind. Hopefully we can get the word out to preclude possible serious injury or property damage. Thanks. DE

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