



New Headlamp for Wildland Firefighters

Dennis Davis, Project Leader

A new headlamp (figure 1) has advantages that are not immediately obvious, but that make it worth the cost (\$44.41). The General Services Administration Fire Equipment and Supplies Catalog lists the headlamp as (NSN 623-01-493-7630, NFES No. 0667).



Figure 1—The new headlamp system for wildland firefighters.

The new headlamp looks similar (figure 1) to the old headlamp. The old headlamps used four AA batteries, while the new headlamp uses five. The features of the new headlamp include:

- **Computer Control**—The headlamp has a small computer chip inside the light head (figure 2) that regulates the power, controlling the battery usage and the light output. The chip allows batteries to have an extremely long life because it completely drains them. In addition, the chip pulses the light when the batteries are about to die.

Two light levels are available. At the high level, batteries should last between 6 and 8 hours. At the low level, batteries should last between 12 and 18 hours.



Figure 2—A view of the new headlamp's light head, showing the computer chip, the high-output light bulb, and the spare bulb.

The computer chip should allow AA batteries to last so much longer that savings in battery costs could pay for the new headlamp in a single fire season. Even batteries that have been exhausted by a King radio can provide full output in the headlamp for several hours.

- **Brighter Bulb**—The bulb is similar to those used by many powerful handheld AA flashlights. An extra bulb is included.

- **Push-Button Control**—A single water-resistant push button (figure 3) controls light output and turns the headlamp on and off, replacing the rocker switch on the old headlamp. When the new headlamp is attached to the battery pack, the light will come on at the power setting that was used the last time the light had power. Pushing the button and releasing it cycles the lamp through the light levels. Pushing the button and holding it down turns the light off. Pushing the button again and releasing it turns the light back on.





Figure 3—A push-button switch turns the new headlamp on and off and sets the light output to low or high.

- **Variable Light Levels**—By pushing the control button, the user can select the low power setting (similar to the power of the old headlamp), or the high power setting, which is much brighter than the old headlamps.

- **Battery Pack Quick-Disconnect Fitting**—The cord between the battery pack and the light head has a quick-disconnect fitting (figure 4), allowing the batteries to be disconnected entirely from the light head. This feature prevents the batteries from being drained if the control button is pushed accidentally while the unit is being stored.

- **Battery Holder**—The battery holder has an insert that prevents the batteries from being installed incorrectly. In addition, the battery holder connects automatically when it is inserted into the battery carrier.

- **Rubber Headband**—The rubber headband will



Figure 4—Fittings allow the battery pack to be disconnected entirely from the light head.

hold the headlamp securely on any size helmet. The headband can be worn directly on the head, if desired (figure 5).

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Figure 5—A rubber headband holds the headlamp in place on a helmet or on the user's head.

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USDA Forest Service, MTDC
5785 Hwy. 10 West
Missoula, MT 59808-9361
Phone: 406-329-3978
Fax: 406-329-3719
E-mail: wo_mtdc_pubs@fs.fed.us

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For additional information about the new headlamp, contact Dennis Davis at MTDC.

Phone: 406-329-3929

Fax: 406-329-3719

E-mail: ddavis02@fs.fed.us



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