

# Rapid Lesson Sharing

**Event Type:** Defective Fusee Striker Caps

**Date:** September 19, 2019

**Location:** S-390/190 Field Day –  
Kansas National Guard Training

## Firing Device Demonstration Incident

During a “Firing Device Demonstration” at this S-390/190 Field Day, the instructor attempted to light a fusee to demonstrate the correct procedure for students. But the fusee would not light.

Initially it was believed that these fusees might have gotten wet or been defective. After further examination, it was determined that the fusees would light with a striker from a different batch of fusees.

The investigational method was to attempt ignition of each defective fusee by use of the original striker cap, followed by a striker cap of the same style, followed by a striker cap off of a different type of fusee.

Neither the original cap or other identical caps would light any of the defective fusees. However, all defective fusees that were tested successfully ignited on the first attempt with a different style of striker.

## Another Important Observation

Some fusee caps have less striking surface on them than what is common. These fusees may pose a risk to crews if they are unable to ignite them in an emergent situation, such as to burn out a safety zone or deployment site.



Two different striker caps are shown in these two photos. In both photos, the cap in the lower left position would not ignite any fusee that was struck, even after multiple strikes. This was also the case with all caps of this style that were tested. The cap in upper right in both photos ignited every fusee it struck on first strike, including those fusees that would not light with the other style of cap.

**This RLS was submitted by: Aaron Williams, DFMO Southwest Kansas, Kansas Forest Service**

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