

Featured Company: S&S Fire Apparatus

Meta-Lax Takes Heat Out of Fire Fighting

S&S Fire Apparatus, located in Fairmount Indiana, is a manufacturer of custom stainless steel fire trucks. Long considered a premier quality manufacturer in the fire equipment industry, S&S turned to the Meta-Lax system to improve its weld strength in early 1996 with the award of a contract from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manufacture wildland fire fighting vehicles.

Prior to using the Meta-Lax system, S&S experienced some distortion in the 14 - 12 gauge thick 304 stainless steel bodies and compartments. Knowing this and the aggressive terrain the BLM vehicles would face, S&S purchased Meta-Lax Model 900 and soon implemented the Meta-Lax stress relief and weld conditioning process.

"We saw immediate results in the reduction of distortion in our body sides," said Joseph Boone, S&S President. "This led to time savings in our paint operation since less body work was required to smooth out the body sides. We believe most of the

benefits from Meta-Lax will show over the long term." S&S primarily uses Meta-Lax to stress relieve the entire vehicle body, and uses weld conditioning when necessary.



S&S's newest Meta-Lax treated off-road fire truck, the "Outback." Designed for wildland fire fighting, the Outback allows 3,000 lbs. of equipment and hose capacity with a full tank of water, cab space for three and a 1,000 lb. reserve.

Since purchasing Meta-Lax, approximately **70 trucks have been built using the Meta-Lax stress relief and weld conditioning process and no failures have been reported.**

In fact, Meta-Lax was put to the test recently with actual use of a vehicle in the wildland environment. "By

early 1997 we had produced over 20 of these wildland vehicles for the BLM and they quickly put them to task in the rugged western U.S. terrain," said Boone. **"The results with Meta-Lax are excellent - zero weld cracking defects."**

"We purchased a second Meta-Lax system (Model 700) and now use both across the board on all of our product lines, including our newest 4x4 fire truck." Pictured left, the Meta-Lax treated Outback is one of the most rugged vehicles that S&S manufactures.

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