



Update on hotspots and forest fires

24 July 2013

Recent media reports have highlighted an increase in the number of hotspots in Sumatra, numbering over 200 on 22 July.

Our aerial surveillance and field inspection via land patrols confirmed that none of the hotspots in areas under APRIL's operational control were actually fires.

Two fires were detected in land close to our planted areas where APRIL has no operational control. While the company is putting out the fires, it has also reported this to the police. We have put two helicopters with aerial water bombing capability into operation and have deployed 150 fire fighters on the ground.

APRIL continues to be vigilant and is actively monitoring and verifying hotspots. During this hot and dry season, fire can spread into our operational areas from outside areas. As such, upon detection of a fire, APRIL's fire fighters and fire fighting equipment, including helicopters with water-bombing capability, are immediately deployed to extinguish the fire as quickly as possible. Each fire outbreak outside APRIL's operational areas is reported to the police for follow-up investigations.

Fire outbreaks can lead to damage and loss of plantation trees. As fibre from trees is the key raw material for the pulp and paper business, APRIL practices a strict 'no-burn' policy in our operational areas. It is also why we monitor for fires and act fast to extinguish outbreaks of fires in and near our operational areas.

APRIL continues to work closely with government and local communities to contribute to their fire fighting efforts. In June, the company provided manpower and resources to Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (National Agency for Disaster Management) to support the Government's ongoing efforts to tackle fires occurring outside its operational areas.

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