

# Hawkes Bay Forestry Operations

## Fire Danger Codes

### Code Blue

Build up Index (BUI)	60 - 80
Fire Weather Index (FWI)	< 29

### Increase Maintenance Checks & Notification Procedures

As per standing instructions:

**1. Physical checks and sign off**

- ☐ Daily-physical inspection of all hauler blocks, ropes and surrounding areas for clearance from slash, binding and fire hazards.
- ☐ Weekly-physical inspection of all fire equipment (including fire extinguishers)

**2. Maintenance and Cleaning**

- ☐ Chainsaws - increase inspection frequency and keep high standard of maintenance.
- ☐ Machinery-increase wash downs and keep high standard of cleanliness.

**3. Notification**

- ☐ Phone 111 or use emergency procedure on radio if you need assistance to put fire out or if you see a fire that may need extinguishing.
- ☐ Notify Forestry Co-ordinator of any fire no matter size.
- ☐ Notify Forestry Co-ordinator of any welding
- ☐ Notify Forestry Co-ordinator if working weekends.

**4. Review**

- ☐ Review chainsaw work in areas with high fire hazard (gorse) preference for low hazard areas.

**At any time, if the FWI increases beyond 29, consider implementation 'Step 5 - Code Red'**

# Code Yellow

**Build up Index (BUI)            80 - 100**  
**Fire Weather Index (FWI)   < 29**

## Introduce Emergency Plans & Increase Maintenance / Checking

### 1.    **Physical checks and sign off**

- ☐     Daily physical inspection of all hauler blocks, ropes and surrounding areas for clearance from slash, binding and fire hazard.
- ☐     Daily- physical inspection of all fire equipment including extinguishers.
- ☐     Crew vehicles and Service agency vehicles - all vehicles in forest to be checked by Contractor for required fire equipment. (Refer to rear of Code Red sheet).

### 2.    **Maintenance and Cleaning**

- ☐     Welding- permit required contact forestry Co-ordinator.
- ☐     Wash down all machines working in the forest weekly.

### 3.    **Notification**

- ☐     Phone 111 or use emergency procedure on radio if you need assistance to put fire out or if you see a fire that may need extinguishing
- ☐     Notify Forestry Co-ordinator of any fire no matter size.
- ☐     Notify Forestry Co-ordinator if working weekends, and/or any road closures

### 4.    **Review**

- ☐     Review forest-mowing operations
- ☐     Reduce the number of private crew vehicles entering the forest.

**At any time, if the FWI increases beyond 29, consider implementation 'Step 5 - Code Red'**

# Code Orange

Build up Index (BUI)	100 - 140
Fire Weather Index (FWI)	< 29

## Introduce Work Restrictions on Forest Operations

1. **Physical checks and sign off - as per 'Step 1 - Code Yellow'**
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning - as per 'Step 2 - Code Yellow'**
3. **Emergency planning**
  - ❑ Water points - Identify and inspect two nearest reliable water points
  - ❑ Escape routes – Where possible establish two escape routes from the forest. All crew members must know the escape routes from their work sites.
  - ❑ Back Blocks – provide 40 litres water and shovel at the back line. Inspect and clean around back line each morning and after each shift. Record of inspections kept by Hauler operator.
  - ❑ Emergency communications – all vehicles to have a reliable form of emergency communication.
4. **Work Restrictions**

Smoking	On roadsides, skid tracks or landings clear of vegetation or in (approved) contained areas
Roadside Mowing	Operations cease
Thinning to Waste	Low risk areas only e.g.: grazed stands STOP @ 1200hrs. All thinning operations to stop at BUI 120.
F-Breaking & S-raking	Low risk areas only STOP 1200hrs
At 12.00hrs	All chainsaw operations, hauler, ground based and shovel logging operations halt on forest sites.
At 15.30hrs	Processing on skid sites halt.
Fire Patrol	One person for each operational site to remain for 1 hour after operations cease and complete site inspection before leaving.
5. **Extended Hours**

Where Fire appliances are based within 10 minutes of operations, hauling and processing hours may be extended. Written approval required from FENZ RFO.
6. **Emergency Planning: As per 'Step 3 - Code Yellow' PLUS:**

Silvicultural crews	Have hand held communications with them at all times.
Daily forest patrols	By fire appliance /smoke chaser through high hazard areas.
Harvesting crews	<b>Daily</b> checks of all requirements recorded in Diaries. Site risk rating, preparedness, attack and evacuation plan to be tablished.
Fire appliances	Experienced operators to be within 10min response and remain 1 hour after operations cease. <b>Foreman</b> is to physically show fire appliance operator all access roads and tracks.
Refuelling sites	Shovel and fire extinguishers on each site. Crew is to continually scan work site for visible signs of likely fire carts.
7. **Notification - as per 'Step 3 - Code Yellow'**

**At any time, if the FWI increases beyond 29, consider implementation 'Step 5 - Code Red'**

# Code Red

**Build up Index (BUI) > 140**  
**Fire Weather Index (FWI) > 29**

## Introduce Work Restrictions & Fire Response Contingency Plans

1. **Physical checks and sign off**  
As per 'Step 1 - Code Orange'
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning**  
As per 'Step 2 Code Orange'
3. **Work Restrictions:**  
As per "Step 4 - Code Orange' PLUS  
**NO silviculture chainsaw** operations  
**NO machine operations** in heavy undergrowth.  

Harvesting operations	Chainsaws and extraction to stop at 1200 hours
	Processing halts 1400hr
Roading Operations	No maintenance grading
All forest operations	Stop at 1400hrs
	Note: New formation earthworks, metalling and cartage operations may continue with FENZ RFO approval.
4. **Extended hours**  
Will not normally be given.
5. **Emergency planning**  
As per 'Step 6 - Code Orange' PLUS:  
**Fire Appliances on site** and crewed with minimum of two experienced operators from early morning until 1 hour after harvesting crew leave site.

### All operations are to STOP if:

- ☐ A vegetation fire starts within the Bay Forests zone when the BUI is >120.
- ☐ Required by the FENZ RFO

# Fire Plan Requirements for Forest Operations

## 1. Welding

- No welding, gas cutting or abrasive wheel cutting operations may be undertaken without applying for a hot work permit from the Pan Pac Forestry Manager or Forestry Co-ordinator.
- Work must be done on a cleared skid or road area and thorough check for live sparks must be made when the work is finished and patrolled for 30 minutes.
- A nine-litre extinguisher or a 15-litre knapsack pump must be on hand during such operations.

## 2. Fire Fighting Equipment for Contractors & Forestry/Harvesting Crews

All equipment specified must be kept in good order at the actual operation. Fire equipment will be periodically inspected, and where any discrepancy is found the contractor must be stood down from further work and reinstated only when the equipment meets the specified requirements.

### Standards For Fire Extinguishers:

- All vehicle and machinery extinguishers are to be 'Multi-Purpose - A B C' type.
- Exceptions are the nine litre pressurised water or 9 litre foam extinguishers.
- Chainsaw operator and motorcycle extinguishers must be a minimum of 'B' (Flammable Liquids) plus 'C' (Electrical).
- Fire extinguishers must be inspected on an annual basis.

**The following fire equipment is the minimum to be kept on hand:**

### Harvesting Crews:

- 1 shovel per 2 men
- 2 knapsack pumps (15-litre minimum) and 100 litres water
- Belt-carried fire extinguisher of approximately 350 gm capacity per power saw at felling or trimming face.

### Tractor, Skidder, Excavator or Grader

- 1 shovel
- **Either** 1 dry powder fire extinguisher, of not less than 1.5 kg capacity with a 1 x 9 litre pressurised water fire extinguisher **or** a 9 litre foam extinguisher.

### Loader, Hauler and Bell:

- 1 Dry Powder fire extinguisher of not less than 1.5 kg capacity or a 9 litre foam extinguisher.

### Car, Utility or Van:

- 1 shovel
- 1 dry powder fire extinguisher of not less than 900 gm capacity.

### Truck:

- 1 fire extinguisher, dry powder of not less than 1.5 kg capacity; and
- 1 shovel.

### Silviculture Crews:

- 1 shovel per two men;
- 1 knapsack pump (15 litre minimum) per three men, and 3 x 20 litre water per knapsack
- 1 slasher per three men;
- 1 x 350 gm (min) approved fire extinguisher carried on the belt of every person using a power-saw.