



## NEED FURTHER INFORMATION...

### *Preventive measures during forestry operations*

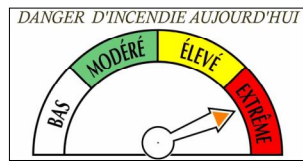
#### WHO DECIDES?

The decision to suggest preventive measures during forestry operations is taken together by:

- the chairperson of the Regional Forest Protection Council;
- the regional director(s) of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF);
- the director of the main base concerned.

#### WHEN?

- When the fire danger reaches critical levels set out in the "decision assistance" document.
- When the decision makers believe that one or several of the following factors justify taking action: the number of active fires, the availability of resources, lightning, the sectors affected in the province and feedback from forest workers.
- When a ban on open fire comes into effect.
- Generally, after sending a situation report stating that SOPFEU is considering, in the short term, the possibility of suggesting a total or partial stop of forestry operations.



#### WHY « SUGGESTED » MEASURES?

SOPFEU's role consists of informing its members that the fire danger has reached a critical stage. It assesses the situation at a regional level. Forest companies also have an active role to play at the regional level, on their forest land. If deemed necessary, they can suspend their operations without waiting for a notice from SOPFEU.

This way of proceeding was adopted by the regional forest protection councils. The serious nature of a fire situation requires the utmost caution. However, the decision to heed the suggestion or not belongs to the forest company. While they are not liable to a fine, companies that don't suspend their forestry operations may be subject to lawsuits, particularly civil suits, if they cause damage to others.

The situation is different when it comes to banning open fires and closing the forest. Ordered by the Minister, these measures are provided for in the Forest Act. Those who fail to comply are liable to a fine ranging from \$ 500 to \$ 50,000.

#### NOON TO 8 P.M. OR 24 HOURS A DAY?

The decision to suggest the partial suspension or total stop of forestry operations depends, once again, on a series of factors. Generally, the period of the year plays a preponderant role.

In May and June, when new vegetation is scarce and moisture levels are low, the conditions can deteriorate quickly. Decision makers will therefore not hesitate to suggest that operations be stopped completely. Later on during the season, the abundance of greenery and high humidity levels in the morning provide more leeway. This explains why the suggestions made in July and August are often for partial suspensions at first. If a dry spell persists, a total stop will be recommended.

These are only indicators, since each situation is different. Mother Nature always has surprises for us, to which we must be able to react with discernment and flexibility.

#### HOW TO OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION?

SOPFEU's members and collaborators can sign-up to receive e-mails including all necessary information by visiting the [www.sopfeu.qc.ca](http://www.sopfeu.qc.ca) and clicking on the icon on the front page.



At all times, SOPFEU's website displays the preventive measures in effect.

**Please remember that SOPFEU members are themselves responsible for sending the information to their contractors, sub-contractors and any other associates.**

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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