



FOREST FIRE SUPPRESSION

A few safety reminders

If a fire breaks out in your municipality... Call SOPFEU!

When forest fires break out close to urban areas, municipal fire departments are often in the best position to promptly carry out the initial attack. **But remember, the primary concern is safety!**

EVACUATION PLAN

Upon arrival at the fire site, the person in charge must plan retreat routes and inform personnel about them.

EQUIPMENT

When hiring additional personnel, other than that of the fire department, the person in charge must make sure that workers :

- Are aware of the safety precautions to take for each piece of fire fighting equipment.
- Wear the necessary safety gear for the task at hand.
- Use equipment according to manufacturers' instructions (ATV, forestry machinery, chainsaw, etc.).



INTERVENTION ALONG A TRAIN TRACK



If there is a fire along a train track and intervention is required, the fire chief must :

- Promptly notify the railroad company involved to tell them suppression activities are underway.
- Give the location of the fire using the mileage point.
- Take down the name, function, address and phone number of the person contacted.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTION

To be able to identify and contact the train service in question, a simple way is to go to a railroad crossing. On the flashing light post that indicates an approaching train, is a toll-free number to call in case of an emergency.

INTERVENTIONS INVOLVING WATER BOMBERS

The primary role of water bombers is to contain the blaze as quickly as possible so that ground crews can safely carry out operations to control the fire. Water bombers are generally accompanied by a birddog aircraft. The job of the air attack officer on this aircraft is to :



- Plan the air attack;
- Locate the fire fighters on the ground;
- Coordinate the simultaneous work of several aircraft;
- Identify targets;
- Assess the effects of drops;
- Monitor the fire's progress along the entire perimeter and keep the regional fire centre of SOPFEU informed.

On rare occasions, water bombers might work on a fire without an air attack officer. It is therefore all the more important to follow safety procedures.



SAFETY REMINDER FOR FIRE FIGHTERS

- ✓ Before making a drop, the water bomber usually does an inspection run to show its intention of making a drop.
- ✓ Make your presence known by pointing the nozzle (water spray) upward.
- ✓ Keep 150 metres between the water bomber's target and your work area when you are both working on the same perimeter.
- ✓ Sticker available.

