



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Publication

APRIL GROUP DECLARES 'FIRE DANGER PERIOD' IN RIAU CONCESSION AREAS

- **APRIL declares 'Fire Danger Period' in all its concession areas in Riau Province, Indonesia from 1 July to 31 August 2015 – a first by any forestry business in Indonesia.**
- **Declaration is part of APRIL's holistic, community-based approach to forest fire management.**

PANGKALAN KERINCI, 26 June 2015 – APRIL Group announced today a 'Fire Danger Period' across all of its concession areas in Riau Province, Indonesia from 1 July to 31 August 2015 – a first by any forestry business in Indonesia. This declaration is part of APRIL's holistic approach to forest fire management, and reflects the company's commitment to step up collaborative efforts in restricting local communities' use of fire and to help prevent fires from starting.

The 'Fire Danger Period' will serve as an alert to APRIL staff and local communities within Riau, to stay vigilant on the possibility of fires occurring in surrounding areas, due to hot and dry weather currently forecast for the region. It also signals to local communities that fire restrictions will come into force in APRIL managed forest areas, which means that they cannot light a fire in the open air. Notice boards, village meetings and other communication tools will be put up to inform communities.

Fibre Technical Services Director, Mr Periasamy, said, "We recognise that fire is a key threat not just to our fibre plantations and important conservation areas which we manage, but also to our neighbors – the local communities. Declaring a 'Fire Danger Period' will raise the awareness of our staff, contractors and the local communities regarding the risk of fire during this annual dry period."

To ensure high levels of preparedness and immediate suppression of all fires on or near APRIL's concession areas, APRIL will increase ground and air patrols by fire crews and work actively with local communities on fire prevention during this Period. To date, APRIL has invested more than USD6 million in specialized fire teams and firefighting equipment as well as training 700 community-based fire fighters. APRIL also runs a 24-hour Fire Hotline (+62 811 707 2121) to enable people to report on fires occurring within or near its concession areas.

Craig Tribolet, Strategic Fire Manager for APRIL noted that, "Fire prevention is a key focus of APRIL's integrated landscape fire management. Over the past two years, all fires in



APRIL's records clearly point to human-related causes with the underlying motivation to clear land for agriculture.”

For this reason, APRIL is building community-focused partnerships and initiatives such as the 'Fire Free Village, Fire Free Landscape' Programme to develop local communities'

knowledge, capability and resilience in fire management. Under this Programme, local communities are provided tools and information aimed at improving their understanding of fire management and increasing access to alternative sustainable farming systems – both of which are critical to making better decisions on land use management and achieving a fire free landscape.

“Prevention is a critical part of the fire management cycle – it is about stopping the fires before they start. People should be aware of the enormous damage that an uncontrolled fire can cause to themselves and their neighbors. As our fire fighting teams work hard to ensure a high level of preparedness and fire suppression capability, we also need the support of all people across the province to reduce the amount of burning that happens every year,” Mr Craig Tribolet added.



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