



INDUSTRY SAFETY ALERT

Treeplanters Need to Know The Representative Weather Station For Every Block

Date: Spring 2024

Details of Incident: I have just finished three sessions of my Enhanced S100 Wildfire for Industry that included several tree planters. Many had stories of close encounters with wildfires in 2023. All the tree planters, including supervisors, stated they were unaware of how to determine the representative weather station for a specific block. All said the information either wasn't on their site maps or they were unsure how to locate it.

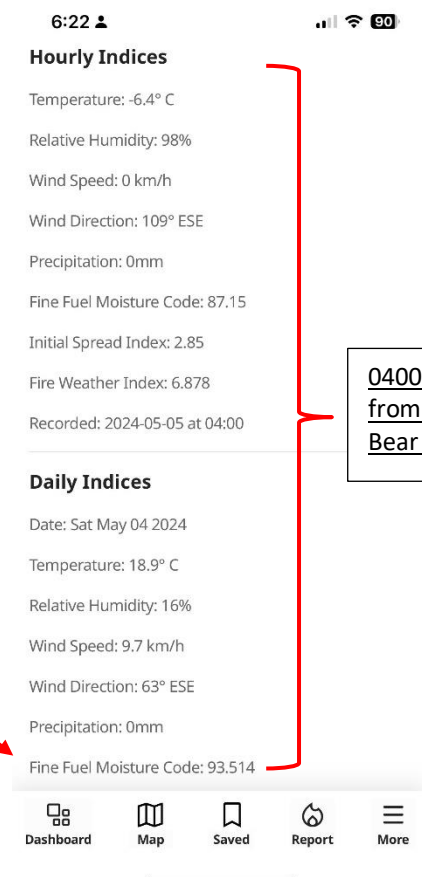
Tree-planting is an industrial activity and planters are forest workers. Just like any other industrial operation they are required to meet the prevention, preparedness and response obligations detailed in the Wildfire Act/Regulations as well as Worksafe BC Act and Regulations. Meeting these obligations may be part of contractual and insurance requirements as well.

Knowing the representative weather station for each worksite and reviewing the applicable Fire Danger Rating, current and forecast weather, fuel moisture codes and fire behavior indices are core components of meeting these wildfire obligations.

The BC Wildfire Service app will tell you the closest weather station but this might not be the most representative.

Determining the most representative weather station for each site falls in the scope of professional forestry and will have been identified for the harvest plan. It just needs to be transferred to the planting maps and info package.

Note FFMC of 93.5



0400 May 5 Info from Bear Lake Wx sta





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Learnings & Suggestions:

1. Tree planting contractors and supervisors should ask their Licensee Silviculture Supervisor for the representative weather station for each worksite.
2. Supervisors should conduct a risk assessment then consult the representative station on the app daily and make appropriate prevention, preparedness and response operational adjustments.
3. Considering the ongoing drought conditions, and forecast early and elevated wildfire activity, I suggest it would be prudent for supervisors to include this information in the daily crew briefing for each worksite.

Contact me anytime for more information.

Doug MacLeod

