

# Fact Sheet

## Preventing and Managing Fire and Haze

Supports Principles 7, 8 and 9 of the UN Global Compact

APRIL does not use fire for land clearing in its fiber plantation operations. We have been strictly practicing this “No Burn” Policy since 1994, three years before the Indonesian Government made no-burning a law.

The Riau Province of Sumatra, Indonesia where APRIL operates endures two dry seasons a year when low humidity and windy conditions can bring about fierce fires and harmful smoke. These fires are mainly caused by the slash-and-burn practice of local farmers and oil palm developers. The annual occurrence of smoke and haze causes human health hazards, economic losses and political tension in the Southeast Asian region.

APRIL integrates fire management into its fiber plantation management. Our Mosaic Plantation Concept retains natural forest greenbelts that provide a zone of high humidity, shade and mature vegetation that minimizes the potential for an emerging fire to enter or spread into the plantation.

In addition to daily satellite monitoring of weather and “hotspots”, APRIL conducts regular fire patrols by helicopter and pickup trucks. Our rapid response capability is guided by four fire suppression operational objectives:

- **Detection.** All fires must be identified and reported at the smallest possible size (0.1 hectare)
- **Initial attack.** Fire suppression must begin within 2 hours of getting the fire detection report
- **Containment.** Fire growth must be contained within 48 hours of initial attack
- **Size.** Maximum area burned should be less than 10 hectares

Our firefighting teams receive training four times per year. We have invested over US\$ 1.3 million on specialized firefighting equipment and spend over US\$1 million a year for fire management operations that include using a water-bombing plane and airboat for rapid response. We conduct community dialogues to build awareness of the harmful impacts of uncontrolled fires and our Community Empowerment programs teach villagers sustainable farming without the use of fire.



Joint Efforts on Fire and Haze Prevention

We have actively collaborated with the Indonesian government to combat fire and haze. On 10th May 2006, APRIL, together with Riau Governor, and Ministers of Environment, Forestry, and Agriculture signed a joint declaration reiterating its commitment to “No Burn” policy and fire management practices. APRIL was also the first private plantation forest company to join 29 other international organizations in founding the United Nations-FAO Fire Management Action Alliance on 16 May 2007 in Sevilla, Spain.

### Summary of Fires in APRIL Concession

	2003	2004	2005	2006	June 2007
Number of Fires	76	128	178	194	65
Hectares Burned	605	353	3,623	541	68
Planted	277	113	2,601	301	19
Unplanted	328	240	1,022	240	49
No. of fires >10 ha	8	7	25	11	1
<b>Average Fire Size (ha)</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Fire Management Performance Rating (%)</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>98</b>

\* Fire Management Performance Rating is based on the annual proportion of fires that do not exceed 10 hectares.