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UKFCG E-NEWS

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FIRE

Now would be a good time to review your Fire Plans. In addition to the risk now posed as a result of the current very un-British weather, you should also be aware of the revised Emergency Planning requirements in UKWAS v4. A variety of Emergency Planning requirements have now been brought together under one indicator, section 2.12.2, as part of Management Planning.

UKWAS 2.12.2 requirement states: **There shall be an emergency response plan appropriate to the level of risk**

Auditors will look for examples of Emergency response plans and for sites with a high risk of fire, evidence of contact with the fire and rescue service and that their advice has been taken into consideration.

GUIDANCE

Incidents may include:

*Fire / Extreme weather events / Outbreaks of pests, diseases or invasive species / Accidents
Chemical spills and other pollution.*

*Where appropriate, plans may be as simple as a reference card, but as a minimum should include:
Responsibilities for action / Contact details / Emergency procedures.*

Plans should take into account FISA best practice guidance and issues such as the remoteness of some WMUs, which may affect both communication and the ability of emergency services to reach sites in a timely manner.

One of the forest managers with a number of sites included on our FSC certificate has taken the step of adding a site specific emergency plan to each forest plan and details copied to contractors, with any updates, for each operation. Well done Ben, on a mission to make auditing easier for the forest manager, group manager and external auditors.

TICKS

I (Phil) am also on a mission, to remind everyone about the dangers of Lyme disease. FISA have just updated their Lyme Disease Information Note, copy attached with this e-newsletter, following a report of another forester suffering over a protracted period of time with this disease. Timely arrival of the FISA e-mail coincided with me starting a course of antibiotics for an infected tick bite. Hopefully not a problem, the medical profession in The Highlands seem very aware of the risks and the need for medical intervention at an early stage.

O'Tom Tick Twisters to remove ticks I can highly recommend, I have a pair in every first aid kit and suggest all forestry first aid kits should be personalised in this way. [Plenty of vendors on the internet but check prices as there is wide variation].

Annual Audit of UKFCG by Soil Association

Sites have been selected and appointments made with the forest managers. The audit will be taking place from 11th July through to 27th, Seventeen forests have been selected for the audit. Phil and Paul will be visiting the following forests with the SA audit team:

Invertrossachs, Burnfoot, Lamerty and Scienteuch, Upper Heilar, Silton, Purgatory, Kype and Lambhill, Kildermorie, Glenample, Ballochmorrie Estate, Ardchullarie, Dochart, Cambushinnie, Kepranich, Meggernie Estate, Auchubhmore and Forrest Estate.

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The mark of
responsible forestry

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Thank you in advance to all the managers and owners who will be visited, we look forward to another successful audit and will provide feedback to all UKFCG members on the audit findings when we receive the reports in August/September.

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