



**THINK SAFE  
STAY SAFE**



**Tilhill**

BSWGROUP member of binderholz

# SAFETY AND ASSURANCE BULLETIN

**INSIST ON SAFETY**

**JUNE 2022**

## Wildfire Risk

We covered the topic of seasonal risk from Wildfires in the April Bulletin. At the end of the article we gave some points to remember, as shown below:

### Remember!

- Ensure your Forest Fire plans are up to date.
- Subscribe to Wildfire Risk Alert services, such as provided through Confor.
- Check you have a grab bag ready to go if called upon to help manage a fire. It should contain items to sustain you if you are on site assisting the emergency services, e.g. power bank for phone/tablet, food and water.
- Don't forget a Helicopter authorisation form in case it is required (3N/51).

When considering the adequacy of your fire plans it is important to carefully consider the risk from external factors such as public access. Is the forest regularly accessed by members of the public?

Perhaps visitors are welcomed into a visitor centre, is close to local populations or has a well used path running through it.

Fires started either accidentally or on purpose by the public are becoming more common. A recent fire on site affecting an area of new planting was believed to have been started deliberately. With school holidays soon upon us the risk of fire increases, either deliberately or by misadventure. Consider these risk when making plans.

While the information in the fire plans can help minimise the effects of a fire, there are actions that we can take to help reduce the risk. These include maintenance of the machinery being used on site. We have had fires on sites in the past that have originated from the machinery. Often, these start in the engine bay of a machine where oil has leaked into dry brash that has built up in the belly pan. The mix has then caught fire either from overheating, or from electrical faults. Proper maintenance and regularly clearing out of trapped brash can significantly reduce the chance of a fire which can result in the loss of a machine and the surrounding crop.



### In this edition

Deadly Invaders!

Different Kind of Risk

Professional Plant Protection Products

# Deadly Invaders!

*Oak Processionary Moth Caterpillars.*



Non-native invasive species regularly appear in the headlines. Did you know that there are more than 300 non-native species introduced to the UK which have gone on to become invasive?

These animal and plant invaders are however truly deadly, harming our wildlife and the environment and proving very costly to our economy. Problems caused by these species cost at least £1.7 billion every year in Britain.

## Wonder Weevil released in #INNSWeek

It was Non-Native Invasive Species week in May and, ironically, during this week, South American weevils were released in England in order to tackle the latest non-native species to hit the headlines, pennywort.

Floating pennywort is an ornamental pond plant originating from North America and introduced into the UK. With the ability to grow up to 20 centimetres a day, it soon forms dense rafts over our rivers harming native plant, fish and invertebrates.

Following a decade of testing for safety and ability of the weevils to manage the plant, the weevils were finally released last month. They are only the fourth non-native biological control agent ever to be released in the UK. The Environment Agency, in a report relating to the release, said "We need to act now". The problems of non-native species may get much worse as winters get milder due to climate change.

## Oak Processionary Moth sightings

Another pest in the headlines is the oak processionary moth first identified in London in 2006 but has since spread across South East England.

The Forestry Commission is urging anyone finding these pests to report sightings and is launching a new grant pilot to help landowners tackle this moth.

In February this year, import restrictions were put in place across the whole of Britain restricting imports of high risk oak trees due to the continuation of the spread of

this pest, these measures were previously just in place for South East England.

## Legal responsibilities

Non-native species legislation in England, Scotland and Wales prohibit the spread of non-native species and require landowners to manage and dispose of non-native species in order to prevent spread.

## What can we do?

We may come across floating pennywort or other non-native invasive species during our work.

We must:

- Prevent them from establishing. Take precautions to prevent spread from site to site.
- Detect and rapidly respond if they are found on our sites.
- Where they have become established plan to manage and control to prevent spread and eradicate.

## Remember!

- **Be Aware and Report:** You should be advised as part of any site work instruction if there are invasive non-native species on site and what precautions are needed.
- **If you come across any that haven't been identified, make sure you report it to the Tilhill Manager.**

## Useful Information:

[Forestry Commission TreeAlert Tools and Resources](#)

Submit a report on any sightings or find out more including identification of pests and diseases.

[Defra Plant Health Portal](#)

Find out more about the plant pests and diseases which threaten our countryside.

[Non-Native Invasive Species Website](#)

Useful video shorts and other information on Non-Native Invasives.

(See QR codes over on the left that relate to all of the above).



*Forestry Commission TreeAlert QR Code.*



*Defra Plant Health Portal QR Code.*



*Non-Native Invasive Species Website QR Code.*

# Different Kind of Risk

As we get into the traditionally drier months, we cannot allow ourselves to think that the risk from diffuse pollution has gone away. It hasn't, it has just changed in nature. Over the wetter winter months, the risk usually comes from a gradual deterioration of site conditions as they get wetter, if not properly managed. This is, in some ways, an easier situation to manage due to its slower pace, so the deterioration can be monitored and managed.

In recent years though we have seen an increase in short sharp heavy rainfall events across the country. In towns and cities these can cause flash flooding. On our sites this can result in previously dry and dusty tracks becoming quickly overwhelmed and the dust turning to

slurry and running down and off tracks and extraction routes with subsequent risks to watercourses.

## Learning Points:

- Diffuse Pollution can and does still occur in summer months due to unseasonal heavy rainfall events
- Continue to manage tracks and roads to keep them in good condition so they don't present a diffuse pollution risk in the event of heavy rainfall
- Keep an eye on the weather forecast and prepare sites accordingly when heavy rain is forecast

*Image shows a sump dug to control rainfall on site which has filled after a heavy rainfall event*



**STOP, THINK and ACT when problems start to develop and before a pollution incident happens.**

## Professional Plant Protection Products (PPP's)

All businesses, organisations or sole traders must register with DEFRA if they use professional PPPs and any adjuvants in Great Britain under new requirements.

You need to register if you:

- Use professional PPPs and any adjuvants as part of your work.

- Have professional PPPs and any adjuvants applied by a third party as part of your work in agriculture, horticulture, amenities or forestry.

Registration must be completed by 22nd June. More information can be found on the [Confor Website](#), and the [Government website](#).

All businesses, organisations or sole traders must register with DEFRA if they use professional PPPs.

# June 2022 – Safety & Assurance Bulletin briefing

I have been personally briefed in the contents of this Safety & Assurance Bulletin.

Please add any questions relating to this briefing or any other health, safety and environmental matters you wish to raise:

Please add any suggestions on health, safety and environmental matters:

I have been briefed by: \_\_\_\_\_ My Tilhill Office is: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I am encouraged to submit comment and contribution from this bulletin.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**ORIGINAL** sheet to be held at the Tilhill Office.

Send a **COPY** to: Head of Safety, Tilhill, The Gatehouse, Ruck Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 8EA. Fax: 01892 860441. Email: ios@tilhill.com

**Contractors:** If you would like your own copy of this Safety & Assurance Bulletin please contact your local office and ask to be included on the mailing list.