



Fire Technology Transfer Note

Number - 1

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Introducing the forest and rural Fire Technology Transfer Note By Liam Fogarty.

The aim of the Fire Technology Transfer Note (FTTN) is to communicate knowledge or information to fire fighters and fire managers, so that they can increase their operational and/or planning efficiency. The need for the FTTN was raised at the recent FRFANZ Annual Conference in Wellington, because groups or individuals working on projects (e.g., the development of systems for the proportioning of foam into helicopter buckets) were doing it in isolation, and information sharing will result in the saving of time and money.

The Forest and Rural Fire Research team at the New Zealand Forest Research Institute will coordinate the production of the FTTN. The Fire Technology Transfer Note is not a scientific paper, and the articles do not have to meet rigorous scientific standards, but if you have information that is from somebody else's work in your article, then you must acknowledge it. The FTTN is not a newsletter either, and articles must be in one of the following categories:

- a description of equipment development or assessment, that involves operational trials and/or testing at actual fire situations;
- a summary of New Zealand and/or overseas literature on specific research or technology topics (eg. fire bombing with foam), to assess the applicability of the technology to New Zealand conditions, or to improve the operating procedures currently used;
- the presentation of recently published New Zealand fire research results, to the broader fire management community.

Equipment development and testing is not the role of Grant Pearce and myself. This is up to the operational fire fighters and managers in New Zealand, and the Rural Fire Equipment Working Group, the members of the group are:

- Ian Millman (NRFA);
- Don Geddes (NZ FOA);
- Graeme Robertson (NZ LGA);
- Lindsay Golding (DOC);
- Bill McCabe (FRFANZ); and
- Mike Owen (NZ Defence Force).

NZ FRI and the Working Group, can provide some basic guidelines on how to best go about testing products, or possibly the names of people in Australia, the U.S. or Canada who have done similar work - maybe what you are trying to do has already been done! However, I get the impression that *Kiwi ingenuity* is irrepressible, so if you have developed some new technology, done some operational trials, or made some observations that may assist others to do their jobs better, then this is the forum for you to present your thoughts or results.

To minimise time spent editing and compiling the FTTN, word processed articles are preferred (FRI uses Word For Windows, which can read files from a range of other packages), but if you don't have access to a word processor, don't let it put you off contributing. Any maps or diagrams produced must be good enough to produce a high quality copy from, so that the information is clear to others. Articles written by you will undergo at least one review (with a maximum of two) by Grant or myself, and by somebody who knows more about the topic than we do.



Different themes will form the basis of each edition of the Fire Technology Transfer Note, and if, for example, helicopter foam proportioners are being reviewed, then anybody who has done some research and development, or operational trials in this area should contribute their results. The FTTN is not an equipment catalogue, but if you have tested or developed a worthwhile product, then include the unit cost and supplier in the article. The FTTN will be a useful way to promote the application of science and technology by fire fighters and fire managers in New Zealand, and if you think you have some relevant work, then the FTTN is an excellent medium for you to communicate your results.

There are costs and benefits associated with the adoption of new practices, science and technology (or the phasing out of obsolete science and technology), and these should be debated in the article or preceding issues of the FTTN. The views expressed in the FTTN are not necessarily those of NZ FRI or the NRFA, and any article that comments on standard policy, practice or procedure must have a scientific or technical basis, and include a name, contact number and address.

The FTTN will be produced quarterly. I suggest that you purchase an A4, four ring PVC Overlay Binder to store future editions, these can be purchased from most office supplies stores.

Some Suggested Themes:

- * Canada trip reports - lessons for New Zealand (By G Pearce and P Smart).
- * Foam proportioners for filling helicopters.
- * The aerial application of foam and firetrol.
- * Helipacks for rapid transportation of helicopter bucket filling equipment.
- * The use of fire breaks for plantation protection.
- * The cost effectiveness of fixed wing aircraft, and small and medium helicopters.
- * Fire behaviour prediction tables for New Zealand.
- * FWI forecasting with Dew Point Tables.

If you have more themes, or have something to contribute on one of the above, then let me know. My contact is:

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