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Our expert



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UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest

Russian Forest Fire

5 August 2010

Daily updates and further information can
www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/current/global

Q: What impact will the forest fires have for the timber industry and which is the influence already?

A: The current fires in the greater Moscow - Nijni Novgorod regions are affecting the timber industry. The fires are burning in the agricultural domain under extreme heat and drought there are direct losses by burning of wheat

Forests and wildlands are also affected. However, many of these are the effects of fires on timber is limited in a way that the trunks are blacker just more costly.

We have seen from space that fires have burned also in closed stands, destroying young stands.

Most serious are the effects of fires in peat-swamp ecosystems that under the long-lasting drought of this summer. Like in Finland, fires encroach and burn for months, some may even "overwinter". Besides the destruction and particle emissions affecting human health and security, as well as

And finally the economic losses by burning of houses, villages, infrastructure

Compared to all these fire impacts, and considering the current under the timber market will be negligible.

Q: This question is linked specifically to the institutional framework to prevent and fight fires. In this context, we are wondering which instance, which made them even more devastating, is most interested in the following:

- Where is the institutional responsibility located for fire prevention and fighting in the central government?

A: It is now with the regions, since 1 January 2007, with the new Forest Law. Then a first severe season was predicted for 2010 or 2011, depending on the weather.

- Is fire fighting located within the local/national forestry department of the latter, have they received adequate training to extinguish fires?

A: It is split between forest enterprises, local support by local fire brigades and EMERKOM. In summary: More training is needed. Most importantly –