

Appendix C
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
FIRE ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 990898
REDDING, CA 96099-0898

September 6, 1996

TO: NCFA MEMBERS

Having reviewed your responses to my letter of July 17 regarding fire safety on operations using circular saw blade shears (“hotsaws”), it is the consensus of NCFA members that the following should be the minimum standards for hotsaw shearing operations on member-owned or controlled lands:

1. All harvesting with the hotsaw shear during declared fire season will cease when the ten (10) hour fuelstick reaches four (4) and the relative humidity reaches twenty percent (20%).
2. Humidity and fuelstick measurements will be taken by the operator on site every two hours, commencing no later than 8:00 a.m. each day.
3. A daily log of these measurements will be kept and maintained by the operator on site and will be available for inspection at all times.

All that is required to take the above measurements is a belt weather kit at an approximate cost of \$150 and a 10-hour fuelstick and scales at an approximate cost of \$150 to \$200. I will be happy to put together a bulk order if enough members are interested in supplying this equipment to their contractors. Also, training for the operators can be provided by CDF at no cost and I can arrange for the training upon your request.

Periodic monitoring of the recording system should be performed by your sale administrators to see that the above standards are being met, particularly on high hazard days. I believe implementing these procedures will go along way in minimizing the possibility of fires on member-owned or controlled lands where hotsaws are being used. Many thanks for your review and helpful comments on this issue.

Sincerely,
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRE ASSOCIATION

G. W. Quigley
Fire Coordinator

GWC:plr
cc: Shasta-Trinity Ranger Unit