IMPORTANT & URGENT

No. 8/3/2025/Forests/628
GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF
FOREST DEPARTMENT: MANIPUR

Forest Headquarters, Sanjenthong,
Imphal, Manipur-795001

OFFICE MEMORANDUM
Imphal, the 5th October, 2026

Subject: Standard Operating Procedure during Forest Fire season-reg.

Forest fires continue to inflict colossal, irreversible damage to forest ecosystems, natural regeneration, young plantations, wildlife and vital watersheds across Manipur. Unregulated jhum burning, poorly managed controlled burning along fire lines and the deliberate setting of fires by miscreants for hunting or grazing have repeatedly precipitated widespread wildfires. The situation is likely to aggravate taking the shortage of rainfall this year and the El-Nino impact into consideration.

Given the gravity of ecological, environmental and socio-economic hazards posed by forest fires, the following mandatory preventive, operational and enforcement directives are hereby issued for strict and immediate implementation across all forest jurisdictions:

1. **Immediate Operationalization of Village Forest Fire Committees (VFFCs):**
   All Territorial DFOs and Range Forest Officers (RFOs) shall immediately notify and activate Village Forest Fire Committees (VFFCs) in close coordination with Village Authorities, Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), and local youth clubs etc. to ensure immediate grassroots-level response and continuous community surveillance.

2. **Sensitization & Public Address (PA) System Campaigns:**
   Intensive public awareness campaigns shall be conducted across hill and valley areas. Beat and Range personnel, in collaboration with local administration, must deploy mobile Public Address (PA) systems in vulnerable fringe villages, market hubs and traditional gathering points to educate communities regarding fire hazards, statutory prohibitions and fire seasons.

3. **Mandatory FSI SMS Alert Registration:**
   Field officers shall ensure 100% registration of frontline forest staff, VFFC members, JFMC executives, local volunteers, youth groups and active environmental NGOs on the Forest Survey of India (FSI) Van Agni Geo-portal to receive real-time satellite-based forest fire SMS alerts for immediate ground truthing and rapid dousing. It should also be ensured that registrations are spread over individuals inhabiting at forest fringe areas and not only at the Divisional Headquarters.

4. **Establishment of Temporary Fire Watching Camps:**
   Strategic, well-equipped temporary Fire Camps and observation posts must be erected immediately in highly vulnerable, fire-prone forest blocks and younger plantations. Dedicated patrol squads must be deployed round-the-clock during the fire season with zero compromise on watch-and-ward duties.

5. **Display of Emergency Contact Details:**
   Prominent, weatherproof display boards indicating 24/7 Forest Fire Emergency Control Room contact numbers—including mobile numbers of the concerned DFO, RFO, Beat Officer, local Police Station, and Fire Services—shall be installed at visible public locations outside every

Division, Range, and Beat Office. DFOs shall ensure that the radio handheld devices are workable and readily responded to the messages received from the Control Room at the Forest Headquarters promptly.

6. **Comprehensive Inventory & Servicing of Firefighting Equipment:**
   An immediate physical audit and inventory of all available firefighting gear (fire beaters, water backpacks, blowers, protective equipment, wireless sets, and transport vehicles) must be conducted within seven (7) days of this Office Memo. Defective equipment must be repaired or replaced on top priority to ensure 100% operational readiness.

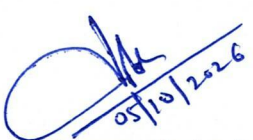
7. **Multi-Tier Firefighting Squads:**
   Rapid Response Firefighting Teams must be operationalized at the Divisional, Range, and Beat levels, properly trained and integrated with local VFFC/JFMC volunteers. Controlled burning of fire lines must adhere strictly to standard protocols under the direct supervision of an officer not below the rank of Forester.

8. **Strict Legal Action, Zero Tolerance & Filing of FIRs:**
   Deliberate ignition of forests is a serious offense. Field officials are strictly instructed to book miscreants and perpetrators under relevant provisions of the Indian Forest Act 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. Prompt lodging of First Information Reports (FIRs) and close liaison with district police authorities is mandatory to ensure exemplary legal action.

9. **Estimation of fuel load and preparation of forest fire Susceptibility Maps:**
   All DFOs must assess the available fuel loads in their forest floors and submit a consolidated report with proper representations on map indicating high, medium and low fuel loads etc. As is done every year, a renewed forest fire susceptibility map may be submitted by all DFOs including DFO/Wildlife.

10. **Mock drills:**
    Regular conduct of mock drills for forest fire prevention teams in vulnerable areas to be organized with assistance from SDRF, local Fire Department, etc.

Any dereliction of duty, negligence in maintaining vigil, or delay in mobilizing response teams shall be viewed with utmost seriousness and will attract disciplinary proceedings.



(Anurag Bajpai)
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF
Government of Manipur

All Territorial Divisional Forest Officer

Copy to:

1. P.S. to Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Government of Manipur.
2. Staff Officer to Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur.
3. P.S. to Principal Secretary (Forest, Environment & Climate Change), Government of Manipur.
4. All Addl. Principal Chief Conservators of Forests (APCCFs), Manipur.
5. All Chief Conservators of Forests (CCFs), Manipur, for information and necessary action.
6. All Conservators of Forests (CFs), to strictly supervise and ensure field-level compliance.
7. Guard File.