

Wilson, John CITZ:EX

From: Martin, Bradley M FLNR:EX
Sent: March 30, 2020 11:46 AM
To: Hawse, Jocelyn FLNR:EX; Falcao, Tony M FLNR:EX; Thomas, Matthew FLNR:EX; Chapman, Ryan W FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: New FOI Request FNR-2020-2109 | Fee Estimate due: April 2, 2020
Attachments: 18 R11498 CEB notes.docx

Hi. It's R11498 not 1496. It won't take long at all....I think. If it is in regards to what is stated below then I have attached what is pertinent. The one piece that isn't mentioned in the PRT notes is that on the day it started Will Roberts (NW 12) was initially sent to do a Fire Origin and Cause (FOC). PRT notes show Will being deployed but doesn't state why. Because of the fire behaviour and values at risk he abandoned that and became IC. I sent Jason Wiley from CEB down the next day to investigate and interview the Industry folks. Attached is his notes. Based on Jason's notes the person that started the fire was deemed to be in compliance and so unable to charge them with anything. It came down to whether or not they should have been on fire watch as they had stopped working. In fact, they hadn't stopped working, they were repairing their machinery and intended to go back to work. I consulted with Laurence on this. Bottom line is there was no contravention of the Wildfire Act or Regulation so no need to conduct an FOC.

Regards,

Brad Martin
Senior Wildfire Officer Prevention
Northwest Fire Centre
Smithers, BC

250-847-6608-office
250-877-2553-cell

From: Hawse, Jocelyn FLNR:EX <Jocelyn.Hawse@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 27, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Falcao, Tony M FLNR:EX <Tony.Falcao@gov.bc.ca>; Thomas, Matthew FLNR:EX <Matthew.Thomas@gov.bc.ca>; Chapman, Ryan W FLNR:EX <Ryan.Chapman@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Martin, Bradley M FLNR:EX <Bradley.Martin@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: New FOI Request FNR-2020-2109 | Fee Estimate due: April 2, 2020

Ok thanks Tony – Brad can you see below and connect with Matt on an estimate?



Jocelyn Hawse

Wildfire Services Officer, Northwest Fire Centre
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Phone: 250 847-6602
*Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555*



From: Falcao, Tony M FLNR:EX <Tony.Falcao@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 27, 2020 3:34 PM

From: [Martin, Bradley M FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Wiley, Jason FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: Re: R11498
Date: August 13, 2018 9:56:45 AM

That should suffice. Ill double check with HQ when I get the time. Thanks.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "Wiley, Jason FLNR:EX"
Date: 2018-08-13 06:59 (GMT-08:00)
To: "Martin, Bradley M FLNR:EX"
Subject: R11498

Morning Brad

The attached are the notes from the interviews from fire R11498. If you are requesting something more formal I am happy to perform that task.

2018-07-27²⁸

0610 Km 132239

ARRIVED @ NADINA

FIRE BASE 0800

0800 TALKED W^{S.22}

S.22

REGARD FIRE

R11498

LOCATION THIS SIDE OF

ENDARO (WEST SIDE)

BAUMBERGER TO SAVOUCY

TO BAUMBERGER BRANCH

1000 AT STAGING AREA R11498

CONTACT W^{S.22}

S.22

WEST FRASER

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY

s.22

s.22

IS THE

s.22

FOR THIS BLK.

* CALLED TO BLK. @ \approx 1300

2018-07-27 FIRE AT SITE

* ON SITE BEFORE 1300

* s.22

PARKED MACHINE

@ 1030, TO PERFORM MAINT.

MAINTENANCE ON BUNKER

* HAD TO WALK TO SERVICE

TRUCK FOR HYDRAULIC HOSES

LOOKED BACK TOWARDS

HARVEST AREA N SAW SMOKE

* PICKUP FOR FIRE EXTINGUISHER

RETURNED TO SITE 50' FLAMES

* PICK TO HARVEST SITE

APPROX. 100 METRES

* EMPTY FIRE EXTINGUISHER

NO SUPPRESSION

* SKIDDER IN WATER DELIVERY

300' gal. TANK

APPROX. 100M TO HARVEST

SITE TO SKIDDER

* RETURN TO FIRE IN MINUTES

SUPPRESSION FAILED

* HOURS OF OPERATION 0300-1500

2 HR. FIRE WATCH IN PLACE

* PRIOR TO END OF BREAK-UP

s.22

PERFORMED FIRE TOOL

/SUPPRESSION SYSTEM INSPECTION

EVERY MACHINE PASSED

s.22

CREW / s.22

s.22

CREW WEST FRASER

EMPLOYS

- FIRST COMPANY TO SHUT DOWN DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (FIRE INCLUDED)

2018-07-27

1115 TALKED TO s.22

- NOT ONSITE AT TIME OF IGNITION

s.22

FOR

THIS AREA

- CREW CHECKS WX STATION¹⁷⁸ AUGER DAILY

- DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FIRE HAZARD & PREPAREDNESS

- STARTED HARVESTING DAY OF FIRE

s.22

INSPECTION FIRE

TOOLS BEFORE HARVEST START AFTER BREAK UP

- SURPRISE FIRE TOOL INSPECTIONS

- SKIDDER ON SITE W 300 GAL. TANK

- EVERY MACHINE HAS FIRE TOOLS

- LAST DAY BEFORE EARLY SHIFT, CREW AWARE OF 2HR. FIRE WATCH¹⁷⁷

2018-07-27

1155 s.22

s.22

@ APPROXIMATELY 1100

- BLEW A HOSE ON THE BUNCHER, DIFFICULT¹⁷⁸

FIX THE HOSE WAS BEHIND FOUR HOSES MORE THEN AN HOUR TO REPAIR

- GOT HOSE OFF HEAD TO PICK LOOKED UP A PUFF OF SMOKE IN THE PATCH HE WAS CUTTING
- GRABBED FIRE EXTINGUISHER RAN UP TO SPRAY FIRE FLAMES WERE 50' IN SPRUCE BUNCHES
- RAN DOWN GRABBED SKIDDER W WATER¹⁷⁸ UP TO BUNCHER COOLED/ WETTED AREA

07
2018.08.27
JWS

- PUT HOSE ON BUNCHER
- THE AREA ^{1st} WHERE FIRE STARTED WAS CUT TWO HOURS PRIOR
- MUST HAVE DINGED ROCK W SAW OR TRACK DOES NOT RECALL
- CULPRET IS THE ROCKS
- SKIDDED WOOD AWAY FROM BUNCHER SO NOT TO LOOSE BUNCHER
- WHEN GOT TO FIRE FLAMES ABOUT 20m FROM FIRE
- FROM TIME SAW SMOKE TO GRABBING FIRE EXTINGUISHER TA SPRINKLING LIKE 3-4 MINS.
- APPROX 75m FROM TRUCK TO BUNCHER
- FROM FIRE (POST FIRE EXTINGUISHER) TO SKIDDER AND BACK TO FIRE 10 to 15 MINS.
- FIRE BURNT AROUND BUNCHER, TRASHED THRU BUSH AND GOT BUNCHER TO ROAD AWAY FROM FUEL

s.22

ON

THIS SITE

- DAILY FIRE TOOL TALKS
- MOVE THE HAVE PREWORK
- MOVE SITES

• DISCUSSIONS ARE VERBAL
BELIEVES ^{s.22} KEEPS
PAPER RECORD OF PRE WORK

• ROAD CREW WORKING
DOWN THE ROAD OUTSIDE
OF BLOCK

^{s.22} CALLED ROAD
CREW WHO CALLED THE
MILL

• ^{s.22} NOT A SMOKER

• TOOK CONRAD 1.5 HR
TO GET TO SITE

• WASN'T EARLY SHIFT
BUT SHUT DOWN TO FIX
HOSES ON BUNCHER 182

• FIRE WATCH WAS TWO
HOURS

• AROUND 11:00 WHEN
STARTED TO WORK ON
BUNCHER

• FIRE INTENDED ON WORKING
UNTIL 12:30/13:00 THEN
SHUT DOWN FOR TWO
HOUR FIRE WATCH

• FIRE WENT DOWN BEFORE
13:00

• 3 DAY TWO HOUR FIRE
WATCH

• FIRST DAY BUNCHING IN
BLOCK 183

• BELIEVES DINGED ROCK W
SAW OR TRACK

MACHINE IS NEW, NOT

MECHANICAL PROBLEMS :

- BUNCHER IS 2014, 500 000

- TRAINED IF FIRE STARTS
SAFETY, PROPERTY THEN
MACHINES

- NO ONE IN AREA OF
FIRE THAT WAS NOT ON
CREW

- ROAD CREW @ 2km or 3km
AWAYS AWAY FROM THE
ROAD

- REGULAR CHECKS OF
FIRE TOOLS

s.22

PERFORMS SURPRISE/ST

INSPECTION FOR FIRE TOOLS
IN MACHINES

2018-08-03

0835 CALLED s.22

s.22

@ NUMBER

PROVIDED s.22

LEFT MESSAGE TO CALL

2018-08-05

1330 CALLED s.22

@ s.22

LEFT MESSAGE TO CALL
FEW QUESTIONS

Who was logging?

→ s.22

- called to site @ 12:00 fire up ~~to~~ at site

• onsite before 1:00

• Buncher ~~at~~ roadside, operator skidding away from buncher

• parked machine @ 10:30 breakdown 1.5 hr. to fix buncher

• walked back to pick to get parts 100 to 150 metres to truck

• saw smoke ran to pickup for fire extinguisher

• by the time he got back to fire ext. 50' flames

• contacted Corner

• to skidder to 300 gallon water tank (s.22)
to buncher to attempt suppression ~~no~~ ~~water~~ possible
too much fire

• start 0300 - 15:00

• 2 hr. fire watch 2 ~~hr~~ days before fire 2 hr. fire watch

• whole crew knows two hour fire watch

• s.22 - fire tool ~~check~~ ~~before~~ before started back
after break-up - every machine - (noted in journal)
every machine ~~was~~ had fire tools

s.22

not a smoker

• not rocky ground

• fire went around buncher still operable

2018-07-27

- ~~Auger~~ weather station - checked daily
- crew is aware and announced over radio about ~~the~~ shutdown

s.22 makes crew show fire tests before start-up

- skidder 300 gallon tank

- started block day of fire

- ~~not~~ on site in Vancouver for medical

s.22 when

not at site

s.22

at his side

s.22

to check for insurance / West Fraser
discussions around liability

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Withheld pursuant to/removal as

Copyright

- Sawoung
- Baumberger
- Owl

West Fraser

◦ s.22

- s.22

◦

Fraser Lake Sawmills

s.22

- Bronze Tone-6

Is the contractor still on site?

R11498

2018-07-28

10:00 Met with s.22 West Fraser Equipment s.22 at the staging area on the Baumberger. The following information was provided by O'BRIEN.

- s.22 is the contractor responsible for harvesting
- Called to block by s.22 approximately 12:00, fire on the block
- s.22 parked the feller buncher at approximately 10:30 to perform maintenance/replacement of the hydraulic hoses
- s.22 walked to the service truck looked back towards the patch and noticed smoke, grabbed the fire extinguisher returned to the site
- Fire was too large and active to suppress with a fire extinguisher
- s.22 ran approximately 100m to grab the Skidder which is outfitted with a 300 gal tank with water
- Returned to the fire in approximately 15 minutes failed to suppress the fire with the water delivery system on the skidder
- The hours of operation are 0300 to 1500, 2hr fire watch at the end of the shift
- This was the last day of regular hours before initiating early shift
- s.22 performed a fire tool inspection prior to harvesting start up, the machines had the required tools and suppression equipment was operable
- s.22 states the s.22 crew West Fraser employs
- First company to shutdown for environmental issue including fire shutdown

1115 Met with s.22 of the harvesting company

- s.22 was not onsite at the time of the ignition
- s.22 for this area
- Crew checks with the Augier weather station daily
- Crew has informal tailgate discussions about fire hazard and fire preparedness regularly
- s.22 inspected fire tools before harvesting start up
- s.22 performs surprise fire tool inspections
- Skidder onsite with 300 gallons tank
- Every machine has fire tools
- Last day before early shift, crew 2 hour fire watch

11:55 Met with s.22 of the harvesting company. The following are s.22 explanation of the incident

- Approximately 11:00 blew a hose on the buncher. A more difficult fix had to remove several hoses to replace the broken hose.
- Once the hose was removed headed to the truck, looked up and saw a puff of smoke in patch he was cutting
- Grabbed fire extinguisher from the truck and ran towards the harvest area. From the time the smoke was noticed to being on site was approximately 4 minutes
- Flames were 50' and in the Spruce bunches, emptied the fire extinguisher no effect on the fire
- Ran and grabbed the skidder with the water delivery system attempted to extinguish fire. Fire was too intense, wetted area around the buncher.
- The area the fire started was cut about two hours prior to the fire starting
- Must have dinged a rock with the saw or tracks, does not recall exactly
- A rock must be the culprit
- Utilized the skidder after attempting suppression to skid wood away from buncher, replaced the hose
- From the time the smoke was noticed to emptying the extinguisher on the fire was 3 to 4 minutes
- Approximately 75 metres from the truck to the buncher
- Took 10 to 15 minutes to get to the skidder (water delivery system) and back to the fire
- Fire burnt around the buncher, s.22 got on the buncher and thrashed through the bush to the road away from the fuel
- s.22 was supervisor on this site
- Crew had daily fire tool talks and pre works when moved to new sites
- Discussions were verbal and s.22 believes s.22 keeps paper records of pre-works
- Road crew working down the road outside of the block.
- s.22 called the road crew, who called the mill to report the fire
- s.22 is not a smoker
- The buncher mechanical issue was the reason the s.22 was shutdown when the fire started
- The fire watch was 2 hours
- s.22 started to work on the buncher at around 11:00
- The intentions were to work to 12:30/13:00 then shutdown for fire watch
- Fire went down before 13:00
- The crew had been on 2 hour fire watch for three days

- s.22 first day bunching in this block, first day of any harvesting in this block
- Believes that dinged a rock with the saw or tracks
- The machine is new with no history of mechanical problems, 2014
- s.22 trained that if a fire starts personal safety is most important second is property (machines) timber is last
- s.22 noticed no people in the area that were not on the crew, road crew was 2 to 3 kilometres away from the site, down the road
- There were regular checks of the fire tools to make sure the suppression systems work and the hand tools were available
- s.22 performs spot/surprise inspections for fire tools

2018-08-11

10:09

After several attempts and left messages on answering machine made contact with s.22 The question asked was what s.22 intended to do after the hose was replaced on the buncher.

- s.22 was going to bunch for a while longer then shut down around 13:00 and perform fire watch for two hours
- The repairs took longer than expected because had to remove four hoses to get to one
- Fire started and no chance to go back logging
- Been fighting fire ever since

2018-08-11

1009

s.22

RETURNED MY CALL

• ASK WHAT HE INTENDED
TO DO ONCE HOSE/
MECHANIC FIXES WERE
DONE ON BUNCHER

- WAS GOING TO
BUNCH OF FOR AWHILE
LONGER BEFORE SHUTTING
DOWN AND PERFORM
FIRE WATCH

- REPAIRS TOOK LONGER
THEN EXPECTED BECAUSE
HAD TO REMOVE

186

SO MANY HOSES

- THEN FIRE STARTED

- NO CHANCE TO GO
BACK TO BUNCHING

2018-10-12

1457

EMAILED s.22

ABOUT TRESPASS

NOTICE FOR CABIN AT
LANG LAKE

• USED EMAIL PROVIDED

BY s.22

WHO

EMAILED ME FOR
ADDRESS

187