



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**1 July 2016**

### **APRIL GROUP DECLARES 'FIRE DANGER PERIOD' IN RIAU CONCESSION AREAS**

- **APRIL declares 'Fire Danger Period' in all its concession areas in the Province of Riau, Indonesia from 1 July to 30 September 2016.**
- **The Declaration is part of APRIL's integrated landscape approach to forest fire management which includes working closely with a range of stakeholders.**

**KERINCI, INDONESIA 1 July 2016** – APRIL Group announced today a 'Fire Danger Period' across all of its concession areas in Riau Province, Indonesia from 1 July to 30 September 2016. This declaration is part of APRIL's integrated landscape approach to forest fire management, and reflects the company's commitment to step up collaborative efforts in working with government agencies, other concession holders and communities to restrict the use of fire during the dry season.

Communities will be informed of the Fire Danger Period via notice boards, village meetings and other communication platforms. During this time, APRIL staff and local communities within Riau are expected to stay vigilant of fires occurring in surrounding areas. Local communities are also restricted from lighting a fire in open air in APRIL managed forest areas given the hot and dry forecast during this season.

"APRIL employs an integrated approach in landscape fire management. Our key focus is to raise awareness and prevent fires from starting," said Mr Craig Tribolet, Strategic Fire Manager for APRIL, "This is a much smarter strategy than trying to put fires out after they have started."

Nearly 80% of fires APRIL attended to in the past 12 months are related to land preparation by small land holders. In response, APRIL is leading the industry with its community-focused Fire Free Village Programme. Under the programme, APRIL partners with local communities to develop their knowledge, capability and resilience in fire management. They are also given access to alternative sustainable farming systems. Communities are enabled to make better decisions on land use management to achieve a fire free landscape.

Mr Sailal Arimi, Fire Prevention Manager for APRIL agrees. "All year round, our fire fighting teams work hard to ensure a high level of preparedness and fire suppression capability. But we also need the support of all people across the province to reduce the amount of burning that happens every year."

During the Fire Danger Period, APRIL will increase ground and air patrols by fire crews and work actively with local communities on fire prevention. This ensures higher levels of preparedness and enables immediate suppression of all fires on or near APRIL's concession areas. To date, APRIL has invested more than USD6 million in specialized fire teams and firefighting equipment as well as training 600 fire fighters. APRIL also runs a 24-hour Fire Hotline (+62 811 707 2121) to enable people to report on fires occurring within or near its concession areas.



**ENDS**

Media inquiries:

Reza Amirul Juniarshah  
Corporate Communications Manager  
[reza\\_juniarshah@aprilasia.com](mailto:reza_juniarshah@aprilasia.com)