

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES
CORNER BROOK, NL
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UPDATE ON THE 2017 FOREST INSECT CONTROL PROGRAM

DATE: July 25, 2017 **TIME:** 2:00 pm **NUMBER OF PAGES:** 1

MESSAGE:

The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources – Forestry and Wildlife Branch wishes to advise that the aircraft to be used for the 2017 hemlock looper control program arrived in Newfoundland the evening of Wednesday, July 19th.

Testing and calibration of the aircraft was conducted at the Stephenville airport on Thursday, July 20th, however, a test flight could not be conducted due to weather. The morning of Friday, July 21st a test flight which included the aerial treatment of a test block with water only was conducted in the Landowns Pond area.

On Friday, July 21 the aircraft was also repositioned to the Port au Choix airstrip in preparation for the start of the 2017 control program. Areas scheduled for treatment are now biologically ready.

High winds and rain prevented treatments from being conducted over the period July 21st to July 24th. On the morning of July 25th, a first application of Btk was conducted on blocks 101 and 102. Weather permitting; a 2nd application could be conducted as early as this evening or tomorrow morning. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

This program is being carried out under license from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. Additional information can be provided by calling the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, Pesticides Control Section, at 1-800-563-6181 (Monday-Friday; 8:30 am – 4:00pm).

Information regarding the time and location of treatments will be available throughout the control program at http://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/idc/ins_control_2017.html or by calling the Forest Insect Control Program Update Line at 1-877-636-2996 to provide information about the time and location of treatments. Individuals calling after this time can leave a voice mail message. Messages are checked daily.

MAPS OF TREATMENT AREAS ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT LOCAL FORESTRY SERVICE OFFICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT OFFICE AT ST. JOHN'S, AND ON THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES WEB SITE.