

**Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
(TELEPHONE 637-2349 OR FAX # 637-2403)
2020 FOREST INSECT CONTROL PROGRAM UPDATE**

DATE: June 30, 2020 **TIME:** 4:00 pm

MESSAGE:

The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources – Forestry and Wildlife Branch - wishes to advise the department is carrying out the 2020 Spruce Budworm Early Intervention Program on the Great Northern Peninsula beginning in July.

Information about the program including maps of treatment areas is available at the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources website at https://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/idc/ins_control_2020.html or by calling the Forest Insect Control Program Update Line at 1-877-636-2996.

Individuals with questions or seeking further information can contact the department by telephone at 709-637-2424 or by email at jeffmotty@gov.nl.ca.

Daily Update Information (June 30):

Calibration of spray aircraft to be used as part of the 2020 Spruce Budworm Early Intervention Treatment Program has been completed and aircraft have now been situated at the airstrip in Port aux Choix in preparation for the start of treatment activity.

Assessments of insect development conducted over the weekend indicate that spruce budworm treatment blocks are now ready for treatment with the first application of the biological control product Btk.

First applications are scheduled to commence on the morning of July 1 subject to weather conditions. Treatments will begin on designated treatment blocks located north of Gros Morne National Park and continue northward. Block 211 – The Arches, Block 215 – Three Mile Rock, Blocks 214, 216 and 217 – Parsons Pond.

Additional information and updates will be provided on a daily basis as spray activity continues.

An operator is available toll free during regular office hours (8:30 am - 4:00 pm) at 1-877-636-2996 to provide information about the time and location of spray activity. Individuals calling after this time can leave a voice mail message. Messages are checked daily. Additional information about the 2020 Forest Insect Control Program is available on the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources web site at https://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/idc/ins_control_2020.html

UPDATES WILL BE PROVIDED TO LOCAL MEDIA OUTLETS ON A DAILY BASIS THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE PROGRAM.