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1. PLAN

The fire prevention campaign for 2023 was launched in the third week of January 2023. Our target was to record ZERO fire incident in the plantations; as such various preventive measures such as sensitization and fire awareness through local fm stations, boundary slashing, equipment, and materials mobilization, etc. were put in place. Personnel (fireguards) were recruitment and trained to patrol the boundaries of the plantations.


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Table 1.

Fireguards Distribution for 2023 Fire Prevention Campaign			
Division	No. of fire guards to recruit	Manager in charge	Remarks
1	6	Victor Agbenu	Fire guards did patrol the boundaries
2	4	Samuel Gyasie	Plantation guards did patrol the boundaries
3	4	Samuel Owusu Mensah	Plantation guards did patrol the boundaries
4	4	Lawrence Owusu	Plantation guards did patrol the boundaries
5	6	Khalifa Ibrahim	Plantation guards did patrol the boundaries
6	6	Joshua Koomson	Fire guards did patrol the boundaries
7	2	Samuel Owusu Mensah	Plantation guards did patrol the boundaries
8	2	Kennedy Nsiah	Fire guards did patrol the boundaries
9	6	Paa Nyarko Aidoo	Fire guards did patrol the boundaries
10	2	John Nartey	Fire guards did patrol the boundaries
11	4	Dickson Gyasi	Fire guards did patrol the boundaries
12	2	James Orhin	Fire guards did patrol the boundaries
13	6	Shaibu Karim	Forest guards did patrol the boundaries
Total	54		

2. SENSITIZATION

The fire prevention campaign for 2023 started with fire awareness, through announcement on the local radio stations. Field workers at the various camps as well as the communities' sharing boundaries with the plantations were sensitized on the dangers and effects of fires on GREL plantations and the need for both workers and community folks to desist from farming and engaging in any activities in and around GREL plantation, that has the potential of causing fire incident. The sensitization was done in all the communities that share boundaries with GREL plantations. The content of the information announced are find below:


- All farming activities are forbidden in the plantations.
- Smoking is prohibited in the plantation.
- No hunting is permitted.
- Setting up of fires of any kind is forbidden.

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- Individual farms sharing common boundaries with the plantations should seek assistance from the company, before burning of such farms. Burning of farms is done in the presence of fireguards.
- *Offenders will be prosecuted by law courts.*

Table 2.

FIRE PREVENTION SENSITIZATION - 2023					
Month	Division	Communities around the division	Period of sensitization	Duration	Remarks
January	ED01	Abase/Tumentu	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Abura	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Anyano 32	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Gyabenkrom	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Mukahoh	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Princess	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January	ED02	Adiewoso	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Ajumako	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January	ED04	Kyeyewere	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Nkwanta	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Tetrem	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January	ED05	Nsuaem	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January	ED06	Essaman	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Kedadwen	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Sucusuku	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January	ED07	Apimenim	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Banso	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January	ED08	Boukrom	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Chavene	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January	ED09	Old Subri	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		New Subri	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January	ED10	Dadwen	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Evrebo	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January	ED11	Abirem Agona	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Breman	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Djobor	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	

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January	ED12	Awudua	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January	ED13	Asikesu	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Breman	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	
January		Okurase	5:30am & 6:30pm	3 days	


3. LOGISTICS AND BOUNDARY PREPARATION

All the equipment and materials for the fire prevention campaign were available and mobilized. Blocks at the boundaries of the plantation were slashed, manually and mechanically, according to plan.

Table 3.

GREL FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN 2023			
LOGISTICS MOBILIZATION			
TOOLS	QUANTITY	REMARKS	AVAILABILITY
Wellington boot	60	To supply and deducts from wages	Yes, but was not supplied
Whistle	60	to supply	Yes, it was supplied
Bucket	30	to supply	Yes, it was supplied
Pocket notebook	30	to supply	Yes, it was supplied
Pen	60	to supply	Yes, it was supplied
Cutlass	30	Self-owned	Yes, fire guards came with it
Fire beater	60	To improvised	Yes

EQUIPMENT	QUANTITY	REMARKS	AVAILABILITY
Water tanks	3	To make readily available	Yes
Tractors	1	As standby to draw tanks	Yes
Pick-up	1	Available	Yes
Truck	1	For emergency fire control	Yes
Slashers	2	To mechanically slash all boundaries	Yes
Chainsaw	1	To make available	Yes
Bicycle		Self-owned	Requirement for selecting fire guard

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4. FIRE PREVENTION PATROL


In a division where there was the need for them to start the patrol, based on the field situation, they started with fewer personnel and increased the number later.

Some divisions did not recruit fire guards, but rather relied on plantation/forest security guards to do the patrol.

Fire prone and boundary blocks were identified and fire guards were assigned to patrol those areas. Also, they scouted for potential farms sharing boundary with the plantation and assisted farm owners to burn the farms.

Table 4.

FIRE PREVENTION PATROL AREAS					
Divisi	No. of fire guar	Patrol areas	Boundary bloc	Issues around the boundaries/in plantation (farm)	Remarks
3	2	Along the stretch from Adiewoso gate to Kyekyerewe	C2,D1,E1,E3,F1,F2,G1-1,G2,H1,H2	No issues, boundaries have private rubber farms	Area being monitored by fire guards
3	2	Along the stretch from Division 3 office to TETREM ROUTE	B1,A3,A5,B4	farm opposite block A5 slashed and burned with help of security fire guard patrol team	Area being monitored by fire guards
7	2	From Block A1,B3 to Block K0	A1,B3,D3,K0	no issues, boundaries have private rubber and cassava farms	Area being monitored by fire guards
7	2	E1,F2,H4,H5	E1,H5	in front of Block E1 slashed,owner identified and awaiting to assist the owner in burning.	Area being monitored by fire guards
2	1	C to D blocks	D7-1	Farming	Area being monitored by fire guards
2	1	A1 to B7-6 blocks	A1, B1, B2	Farming	Area being monitored by fire guards
2	1	G1 to H3 blocks, I3	G1,I3	farming(G1) galamsey(I3)	Area being monitored by fire guards
2	1	C1 to E1-1 blocks	C1	farming	Area being monitored by fire guards
9	2	F1,G1,H1,I1,I3, J6	F1,G1,H1,I1, J6	Farm Behind Block H1 stopped	Area being monitored by fire guards
9	2	E7,F7, F8	E7,F7, F8	Farms around lowlying and marshy stopped and	Area being monitored by fire guards
9	2	H7, H8, I8, K9	H7, I8, K9	New Farm	Area being monitored by fire guards
5	3	Nyaso(boundaries)	F2,G2,E1,D1,L2	Cocoa farms	Area being monitored by fire guards
5	3	Kyekyewere(boundary)	L16,M15,P12,N15	Outgrower farms	Area being monitored by fire guards
5	1	Nsuaem(boundaries)	C14,C15,D14,D15	Outgrower farms	Area being monitored by fire guards
5	1	Essamang(boundaries)	A2,B2	Outgrower farms	Area being monitored by fire guards
1	2	32 Barrier	A5, A6	Rubber seedlings nursery	Area being monitored by fire guards
1	2	Agyambra road	E6,E7,E8	Outgrower farms	Area being monitored by fire guards
1	2	Mokaw road	N9, O9, P9	Food crops farm	Area being monitored by fire guards
11	2	Breman community road	C5, C6, C10	Farming	Area being monitored by fire guards
11	2	Jobor community road	B5, B6	Outgrower farms	Area being monitored by fire guards

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5. FIRE INCIDENCE

In the 2023 fire prevention campaign, four (4) fire incidences were recorded in the campaign period. The fire-affected blocks were mainly immature plantations (4) and mature (2).

A total number of One thousand, four hundred and sixty-one rubber trees have been affected (1,461). The cause of the fires in all the affected blocks except F8 in Subri (Wildfire), was the burning of farms that share boundaries with the GREL plantation. In the case of ED1-U6 and ED10-B1, fire belts were created but the fire got out of hand and extended into the plantation before it was quickly put out.

Table 5.

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT 2023							
Date	Division	Status	Block	Occurrence	Causes of fire	No. of Trees affected	Remarks
31-Jan-23	ED9	Immature	F8	Fire event	Wild fire	500	Fire swept under the plantation
1-Apr-23	ED10	Mature	B1	Fire event	Farming	129	Trees were burnt
5-Apr-23	ED11	Immature	C9	Fire event	Farming	142	Fire swept under the plantation
5-Apr-23	ED11	Immature	C10	Fire event	Farming	456	Fire swept under the plantation
5-Apr-23	ED11	Immature	A12	Fire event	Farming	3	Trees were burnt
30-Apr-23	ED1	Mature	U6	Fire event	Farming	231	Fire swept under the plantation
Total no. of trees affected by fire						1,461	

6. 2022 FIRE CAMPAIGN WEAKNESSES AND CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

The 2023 fire prevention campaign objective was to record ZERO fire incidence in all the estate divisions, but four fire incidences were recorded; two were because of lack of fire belts in our boundaries.

This corrective action plan should enable us to improve in the subsequent campaign year.



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Table 6.

Challenges, Corective Actions and Timelines					
S/No.	Challenges	Division	Corrective Actions	Responsible	Deadline
1	Incomplete slashing of all boundary blocks	All	To prioritise the slashing (both manual and mechanical) of boundary blocks during the fire campaign periods	Divisional managers; Garage & fleet manager	January
2	Non-adherance to cautionary instructions by boundary farmers of neighbouring communities	Some Communities	To intensify sensitization of neighbouring communities and to push for the arrest and prosecution of offenders	Divisional managers; Fire prevention cordinator, & Corparate Affairs	At all times
3	Inefficiency of some fire guards during fire prevention patrol	Almost all	Proper supervision and improvement in the control of their activities	Divisional managers; Fire prevention cordinator, & Field Quality Controls manager	Continuous
4	Inefficiency of some boundary monitoring	All	To complement the monitoring by putting fire guards to patrol the boundaries	Divisional managers; Fire prevention cordinator, & Field Quality Controls manager	February - April
5	Non creation of manual fire belts	All	Where fire belts cannot be done mechanically, divisional managers should award for the manual creation	Divisional managers	January
6	Some field workers attitude and response towards fire alarm	Almost all	To institute measures to reward workers who would respond and partake in putting out fires and to sanction those who would deliberately refuse to adhere to fire alarm	Divisional managers; Fire prevention cordinator, & Estate Manager	Continuous
7	Delays in the payment of wages	All	To plan the order and to prepare for payment a week before the end of the month	Divisional managers; Fire prevention cordinator, & Accounts Department	Continuous

7. PICTURES OF THE FIRE INCIDENCE



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