

Task forces to combat forest fires in Kangra

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The Forest Department has advanced the forest fire season to April 1 from April 15 (ending June 15) keeping in view the prolonged dry spell. To combat fire incidents in lower Kangra, the season can be extended till the monsoons.

According to information, 53,177 hectares of woods are scattered in 82 forest beats in Nurpur division comprising Nurpur, Jawali, Fatehpur and Indora subdivisions. Around 41,000 hectares of forest having chir trees in plenty is considered fire sensitive. Forest fire task forces led by range officers have been deployed in all five ranges. Besides, five mobile micro fire engines have also been deployed in the five forest ranges.

The Nurpur forest division authorities have chalked out a strategy to combat forest fires during the summer. The required maintenance of the existing 73-km fire lines has been undertaken.

Vikalp Yadav, DFO, Nurpur, says the department has decided not to grant leave to its staff during the fire season. The field staff will remain on call duty round the clock. Five control rooms, one each in the range offices at Nurpur, Jawali, Kotla, Fatehpur and Indora, have been set up to ensure coordination during firefighting.

Yadav has said those found lighting or damaging forest wealth would face FIRs and a heavy penalty.

Source: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/task-forces-to-combat-forest-fires-in-kangra-233898>