

## SUMMARY OF SWL POLICY ON FOREST BIOSECURITY (EP03)

### What to look for:

#### Chalara dieback of Ash



#### Ramorum disease



### Further Actions and Information

- SWL EP03 Biosecurity Policy and Procedure was circulated in February 2013 and is available on the Public Folders.
- Discuss any suspected outbreaks with your line manager.

#### Dothistroma Needle Blight



- FC Plant Health web pages: [www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth).
- **Plant Health Contacts**  
**Plant Health - General:** 0131 314 6214, [plant.health@forestry.gov.uk](mailto:plant.health@forestry.gov.uk).  
**Chalara: Scotland** - 0131 314 6156, [fcscotlandenquiries@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fcscotlandenquiries@forestry.gsi.gov.uk);  
**England & Wales** - 08459 335577, [plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk);  
**NI (DARDNI)** - 0300 200 7847, [dardhelpline@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:dardhelpline@dardni.gov.uk).

Images courtesy of FC.

Stuart Johnston, Forestry Director, April 2013

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### Biosecurity Protocol - Visiting Infected or High Risk Sites

**Have you got the following in your vehicle?  
Propellar™? Clean Water? Bucket and Brush?  
Refer to EP03 section 3.3.**

- Refer to EP03 Biosecurity Policy and Procedure and FC Biosecurity Guidance leaflet.
- Lead by example! Demonstrate best practice on biosecurity at all times (work and leisure) alongside safety, to prevent transfer of infected material.
- Be particularly vigilant when visiting sites, standing or processed crops containing the main species currently affected - ash, pine and larch.
- Seek advice if you have any doubts.
- Be observant! Know your woodlands so you know what is 'normal' for that crop.
- Be able to identify symptoms of main pests and diseases - refer to FC plant health web pages. Remember there are other diseases to be aware of.
- Notify all contractors of best practice - include protocols in contract paperwork and monitor during site visits (WSIF's).
- Report any suspected outbreak of pest and pathogen to Plant Health.
- Discuss suspected infection sites with your line manager.
- Send sample of infected material to FR for identification, according to current guidance.
- Fungal diseases (spores) can be spread when conditions are wet, especially via leaves and soil.
- **Main precaution: ensure footwear, equipment and vehicle/bicycle tyres are cleaned of soil/mud, leaves and plant debris. Use a brush if necessary, and disinfect before leaving the site.**
- Subject to owner agreement, raise awareness of tree health and biosecurity, e.g. posters in areas with regular public access.
- Seek advice if you have any doubts.

### Biosecurity Protocol - Infected Material under SPHN

- For sites with confirmed infections of tree diseases, refer to appropriate protocol for handling that infected material under SPHN:
  - ⇒ Chalara dieback of ash trees
  - ⇒ Ramorum disease
  - ⇒ Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB)
  - ⇒ Refer to FC guidance for other pests and pathogens.
- As required, and in liaison with FC, amend grant/other contracts and forest management plans, etc to take account of infected or infested sites.
- Consider silvicultural options for restocking in line with guidance issued for that disease, and building resilient forests of the future.