

# Fire at Kimberly-Clark keeps fire crews busy

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The pile is actually the bark off trees.

Payette said that using the bark in the mill's boilers helps Kimberly-Clark save on the usage of the other form of fuel, Bunker C.

It's a normal mill practice he said.

### Still wetting down

Payette said that workers were still watering down the area the day after with several pumps and hoses.

"It was well-handled by the fire department," he said.

The Kimberly-Clark Fire Department draws from volunteers in the mill.

Workers were scraping down the face of the pile the day after the fire said Payette.

He said that fires of this nature

can work from the inside out.

Once the back hoes had starting scraping down the pile and turning over piles of bark, it became evident that there were only surface fires.

"It was not as bad in particular areas (as once believed)," Payette said.

### MNR involvement

Ken Martinson, unit crew leader, Ministry of Natural Resources, Terrace Bay, said that his crew was there to "assist them (Kimberly-Clark) in anyway we could, with men, equipment-whatever way we could assist."

(There is an agreement between Kimberly-Clark and Terrace Bay Township that if either need assistance, the MNR will help in any way it can).

Martinson's crew did in fact lay and handle hose and wet down areas of the fire. The MNR

supplied 19 lengths of one-inch hose to help fight the fire.

### Water bombers

Martinson also assisted a Bird dog plane (a Cessna Sky Master) and two water bombers in properly targeting the water drops.

The three aircraft were called in from Geraldton.

The two bombers, which can carry 800 gallons of water, got their supply near Pumphouse Bay at Lake Superior.

The design of the two Canso bombers, said Martinson, dates back to the mid-'30s. The last ones were built around the end of World War II or the early '50s.

The Bird dog plane was the organizer of the water drops by setting up the runs of the bombers, Martinson said.

The pilot of the Bird dog was in radio contact with Martinson to receive information about how

well the bombers were hitting their target.

The Bird dog also controlled all aerial traffic around the fire area.

Martinson said a large area around the fire was blocked out to air traffic according to regulations.

### Southern wind

The water drops were made from south to north runs and from east to west runs for a very good reason, Martinson said.

Because of the south wind, the bombers could not fly north to south.

If they made north runs, they would have been flying into the smoke; had to dodge the mill on the exit of the run and also had radio antennas in their paths, said Martinson.

How did the pilots get the water into the bombers you might

ask?

The pilots flew low and planed close to the surface of Lake Superior and two probes (or scoops) were then lowered which scooped up the water.

There is an overflow device Martinson said that allows for proper filling.

He explained that as the water is dropped on the target, the forward momentum and air drag causes the water to elongate.

The Terrace Bay MNR crew helping to fight the fire, besides Martinson, were Crew Boss Maurice Demers, and Unit Crew members Dave Welbourn, Mike Robichaud and James Bull.

### Other methods

Kimberly-Clark also had dozers making fuel breaks so the fire would not spread. Dozers also made several ramps or roads for easier access to the top of the burning pile.



800 gallons

Above a Canso water bomber is shown dropping 800 gallons of Lake Superior water on the bark pile fire at Kimberly-Clark last Tuesday. There were two of these bombers at the scene

where fire crews from K-C, the Township of Terrace Bay and the Ministry of Natural Resources worked diligently to suppress any spreading into surrounding bush.

## This week in fire

Lightning is the only cause of fire and is responsible for 30 per cent of all forest fires.

Due to the fact that this percentage of fires caused by lightning is so common, this Ministry has elected to monitor storms with a sophisticated lightning detection network which maps cloud to ground strikes as they occur.

The network consists of 12 direction finder stations positioned across Northern Ontario. They are linked via datalines to a network position analyzer station and the Provincial Fire Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. The position analyzer calculates strike locations and redistributes location data throughout the network. Regional Fire Centres receive the data and display the storms on monitors which will be received within one minute after lightning has occurred.

The first two weeks of July for this year indicates 54 lightning fire starts. These fires were rapidly attacked by crews and held to small hectare sizes.

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