**Fuel Moisture Sampling Instructions**

**When to sample -** Peak temperature and low RH of the day to capture the fuels at their driest point.

**What to sample -** Collect a variety of fuel samples to represent the variation of fuel moistures across the site

1. Location variety
   1. Aspect
   2. Position on slope
   3. Canopy cover
   4. Inside and outside the unit
   5. Vegetation type
2. Condition variety
   1. Bark – with/without
   2. Height above ground – High/low
   3. Topside and bottom side of stick (protimeter)

If possible, it would be good to keep the following variations in separate fuel samples and make a note of the difference between sample bags.

1. Species
2. Decay class (time since harvest)

**How many to sample** - Enough to capture the variability on the site. Minimum = 3 for each fuel type

1. Location: Time will limit the number of locations. Lower fuel moisture areas are priority. Sampling inside and outside the unit is very important when fuel conditions vary.
2. Condition: The more variety of fuel moistures = more samples. Sample enough individual pieces to represent the high and the low fuel moisture of that area. If you are getting a large difference between the high and low numbers, then do more samples.

**General outline of Fuel Sampling process for oven drying**

1. Walk the unit
2. Determine priority for sampling locations
3. Prepare enough containers for sampling by labeling and weighing. Include tare weight on the container.
4. At each location, select a variety of fuel conditions and record ample protimeter readings before putting samples in the container. (could happen at weigh station too).
5. Weigh filled sample bags and record the weight on your sheet and the container itself
6. Back in the lab place containers in oven preheated to around 90 degrees C for 24 to 48 hours. More time needed for larger fuel size classes.
7. When drying is complete, remove a small number of samples at a time so that samples in the oven do not absorb moisture before being weighed.
8. Record the dry weight
9. Calculate the % fuel moisture



1. Calculate the average % fuel moisture for that fuel type.
2. Report numbers