Fire Behaviour System User Manual

WEATHER ESTIMATES

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F.M.I.S. FUEL DETAILS

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FUEL DETAILS
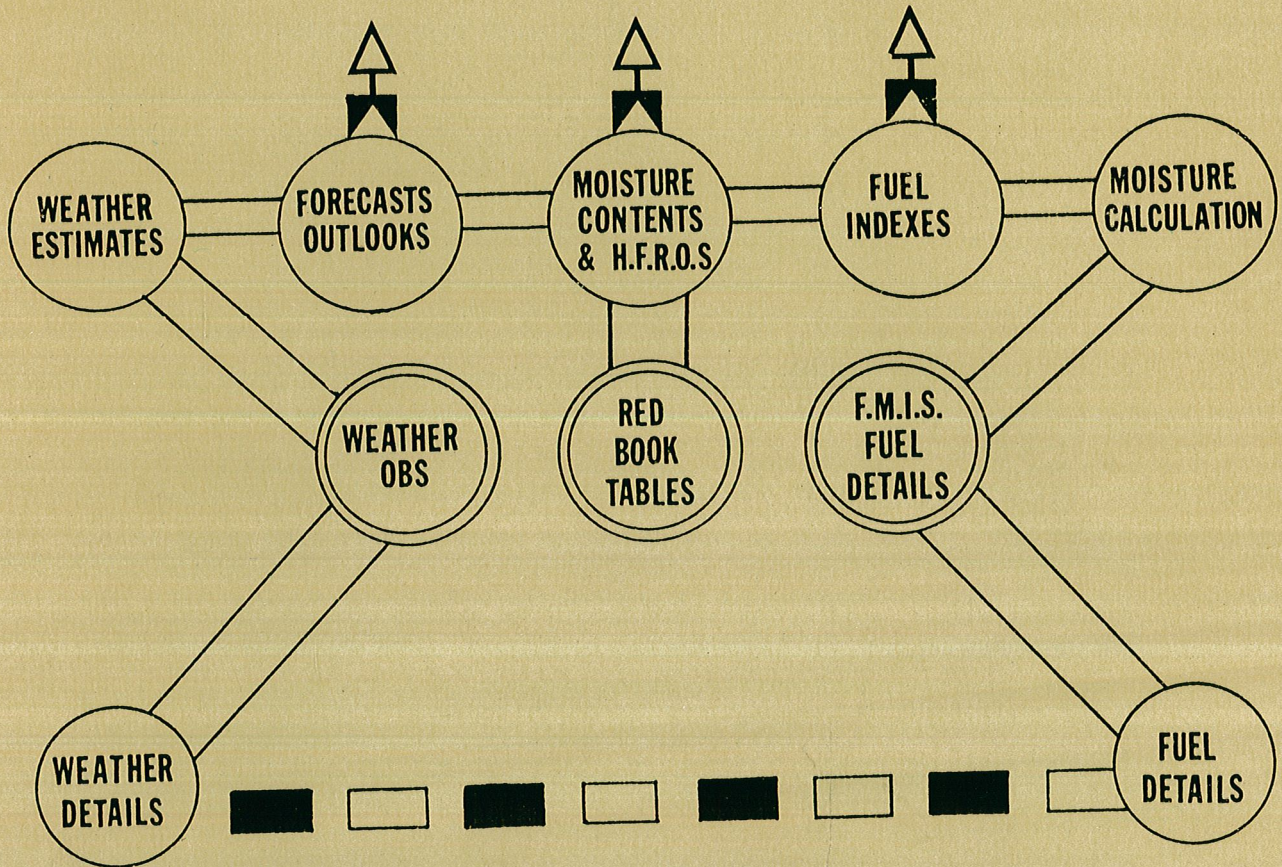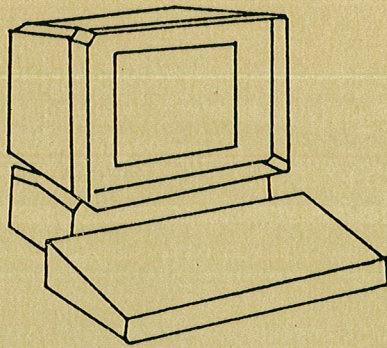
This manual contains -

A. Using reliance

B. Using the Fire Behaviour System

Forests Department of Western Australia

RELIANCE

DISK
FILES

REPORTS

DIVISIONAL
STAFF

S.H.Q.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION TO RELIANCE

RELIANCE is a powerful suite of programs which runs on the
PERKIN-ELMER computer in S.H.Q. The main advantages of the
RELIANCE are that it:

(a) is based on using a menu-style approach, which gives the
     user a range of choices;

(b) has within its framework most of the necessary components
     of a modern, comprehensive software package. This allows
     both the user and data processing professional a range of
     useful upgrade paths to select, which can all be invoked
     relatively easily, compared to the more traditional
     approaches of MTM (Multi-Terminal Monitor).

     These options include:

       (i)   fully integrated file handling

       (ii) a dictionary of all items of storage

       (iii) developing new screens for different requirements
             of each user

       (iv) running jobs either on-line or batch

       (v)   useful function keys on all Perkin-Elmer terminals

       (vi) complete support of PERKIN-ELMER staff.

       (vii) easy to use HELP facility available

The Forests Department has successfully implemented a range of
application programs for varying users. These programs include:

GENERAL LEDGER, PINE LOGGING, SUNDRY DEBTORS, TRAINING, PHONE
SYSTEM, PUBLICATIONS AND LABEL SYSTEM, PLANT, RECORDS, RESEARCH
WORKING PLANS and FIRE BEHAVIOUR SYSTEM.

Currently under development are the HARDWOOD LOGGING, SEED STORE
and SAFETY STATISTICS systems. All the above systems, which have
been running on the computer for 12 months, have minimal problems
and have general approval from a range of users.

Using RELIANCE does not mean using a computer is a breeze, however
it does mean many of the problems associated with using MTM simply
disappear.

2. USING THE COMPUTER

Description

The terminal has a keyboard similar to a typewriter, with a TV
screen in a cabinet behind it. The printer is usually located
near the terminal and has paper feeding into and out of its cabinet.

2.1 Keyboard

If you have a look at the keyboard, you will notice a few
differences between it and a standard typewriter keyboard:

2.1.1   RETURN key (blue key on the lower right hand side of
the board).

At the end of every line you type in, you must press
the RETURN key. This will send what you have typed
in up to the computer

2.1.2   FUNCTION keys (row of twelve blue keys across the top

of the keybooard).

These keys have instructions 'pre-recorded' on them (mostly program callsigns) to save having to type in the whole instruction; all you do is press the desired function key. (No need to press RETURN key when using function keys - RETURN is automatic).

Each function key has two different 'pre-recorded' instructions stored on them with a tag over the keys to say which key is which. You can use whatever is stored on function keys 1 to 12 (F1 to F12 for short) by just pressing the appropriate key; however you must press the SHIFT key at the same time as the appropriate key to use what is stored on F17 to F28.

*N.B.

Function key F1 will always, under RELIANCE, take you back one level.

Function key F2 will wipe you out of RELIANCE completely.

2.1.3   BACK-SPACE key (blue key on upper right-hand side of the keyboard).

If you are typing in a line and you make a mistake, use the BACK-SPACE key to move the "cursor" (blinking white square that shows you where you are up to) back to where you made the error - correct it - then type in the rest of the line again. You can also use the cursor buttons to control the direction of the cursor.

2.2 Screen

The brightness of the screen may be adjusted using the knob at the bottom right-hand corner of the screen cabinet.

2.3 Switching On

2.3.1 Terminal

The power switch is located at the rear of the screen cabinet on the lower left-hand side as you face the screen.
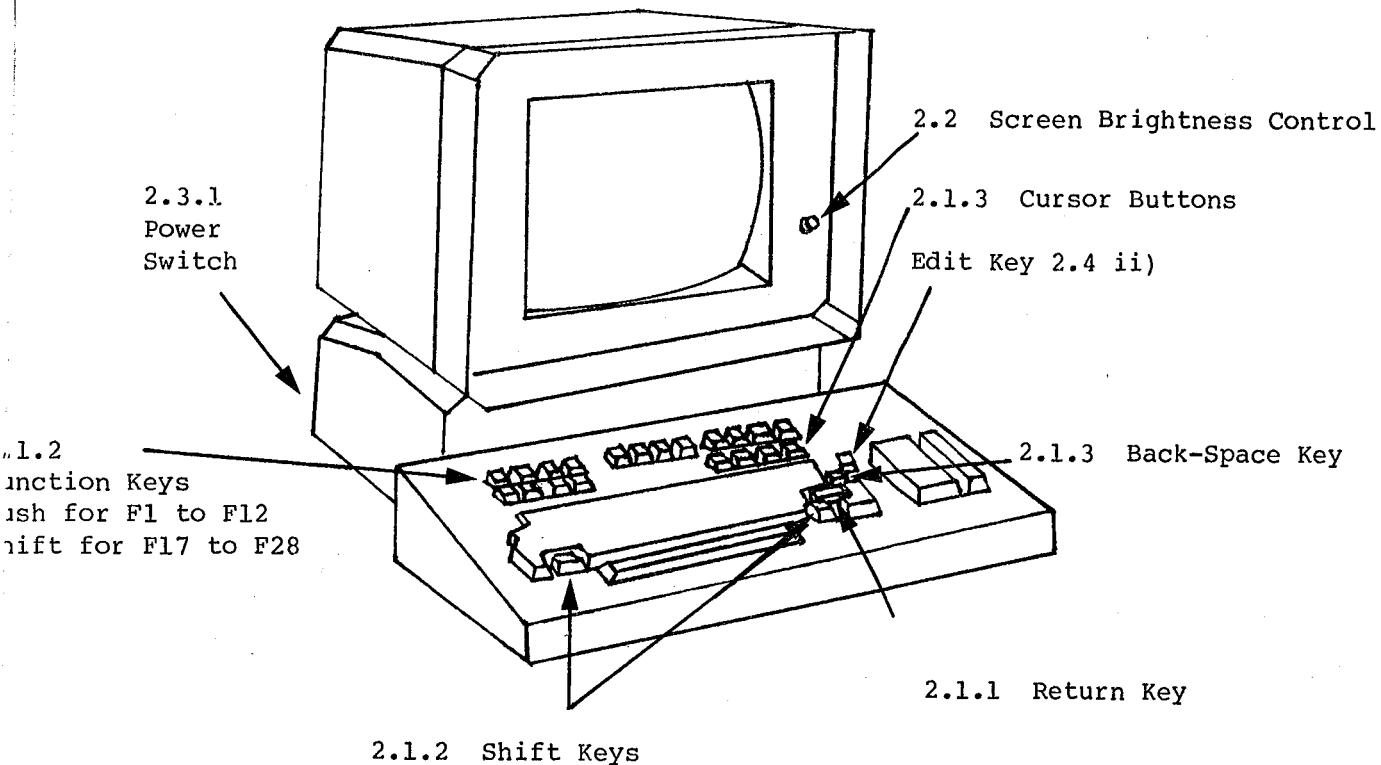
2.3.2 Printer

The power switch is located at the rear of the machine, upper left-hand side as you face the front of the printer.

2.4 To Print a Screen

To print out on paper what is currently on the screen:

i) Turn on the printer (press RESET button on front of printer if necessary).

ii) Press EDIT key (black key on upper right-hand corner of the keyboard).
Terminal should beep when you press this key.

iii) Press function key F5 (has a 'P' on top), printer should begin to print at this point.

iv) Press EDIT key again when you're finished to get out of the edit mode (terminal will not beep this time).

TYPICAL TERMINAL

2.2 Screen Brightness Control

2.3.1
Power
Switch

2.1.3 Cursor Buttons

Edit Key 2.4 ii)

„1.2
inction Keys
ish for F1 to F12
nift for F17 to F28

2.1.3 Back-Space Key

2.1.1 Return Key

2.1.2 Shift Keys

TYPICAL PRINTER

Power Switch

OTE:

umbers (e.g. 2.1.2)
efer to sections in
revious pages.
onsult for further
etails.

Out of   Reset   Form   Line   On-Line
Paper   Button   Feed   Feed   When Lit
                                      (Push →Off
                                          Line)

RED
When
Power ON
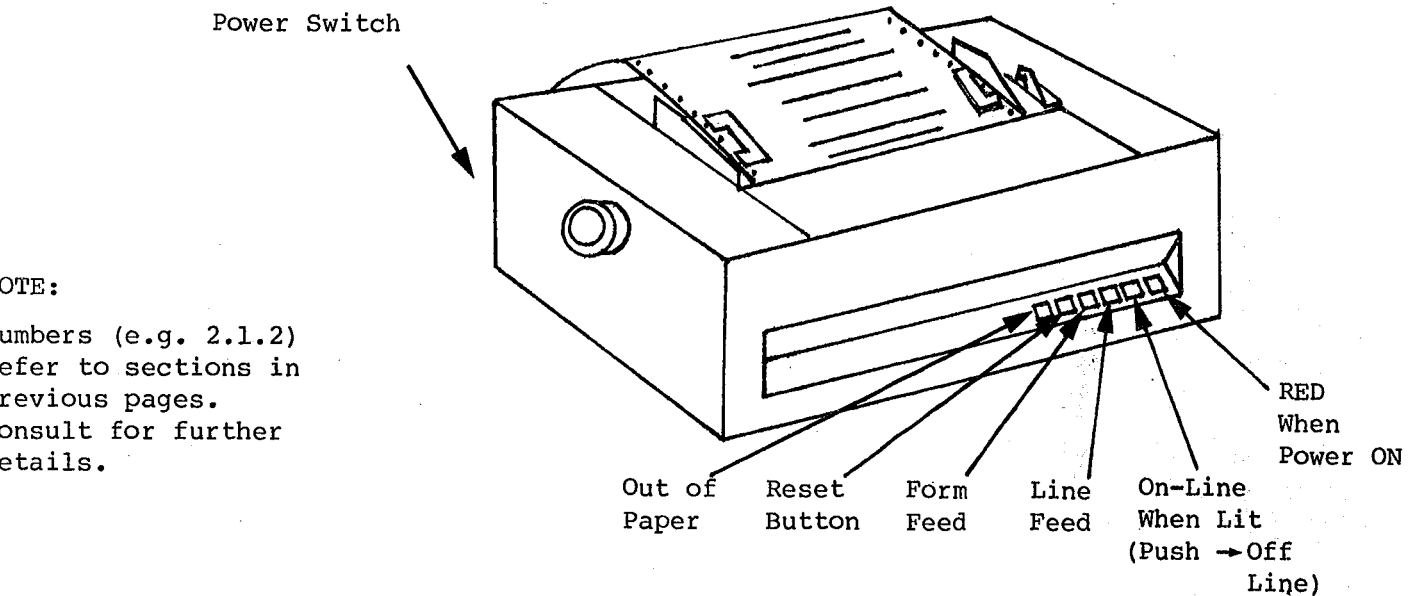
3. INITIAL SCREENS

Screens appear in the following order when you turn the computer on:

3.1 Screen 1

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. . . .

. E N V I R O N M E N T   C O N T R O L   M O N I T O R .

. . . .

```
To use the local computer system...
    for MTM          enter:  MTM
    for Reliance     enter:  RELIANCE identifier

To use a remote computer system via PENnet...
    for MTM          enter:  MTM (system name)
    for Reliance     enter:  RELIANCE identifier (system name)

                              ... and then press RETURN
```

To this screen you need merely type in REL to enter Reliance.

## 3.2 Screen 2

```
        F O R E S T S   D E P A R T M E N T

          R E L I A N C E   S Y S T E M

          S I G N O N     S C R E E N

* * * P R O D U C T I O N   E N V I R O N M E N T * * *

        ENTER USER IDENTIFIER (ID.)        _____

        ENTER USER PASSWORD

        TO EXIT TO E.C.M. PRESS F2
        OR ENTER EX & PRESS SEND.

        FOR HELP ENTER HE & PRESS
        SEND.                          --
```

To this screen you need only type in your RELIANCE user ID.

and password, which should be on a Function Key.

3.3 Screen 3

SYSTEM	CODE	SYSTEM	CODE	SECURITY
GENERAL LEDGER	AA	TELEPHONE	AI	
		TRAINING COURSES	AJ	
PINE LOGGING	AB			
		RECORDS	AK	
SUNDRY DEBTORS	AC			
		GENERAL LEDGER ENQUIRIES	AL	
LABELS	AD			
		PINE LOGGING ESTIMATES	AM	
PLANT	AE			
		PUBLICATIONS	AN	
INFORMATION	AF			
		FIRE BEHAVIOUR	AP	
1984/85 BUDGETS	AH			
		SELECTION		

To this screen you need type in a 2 character selection. Typing
in AP would bring up the Fire Behaviour menu.

B. <u>USING THE FIRE BEHAVIOUR SYSTEM</u>
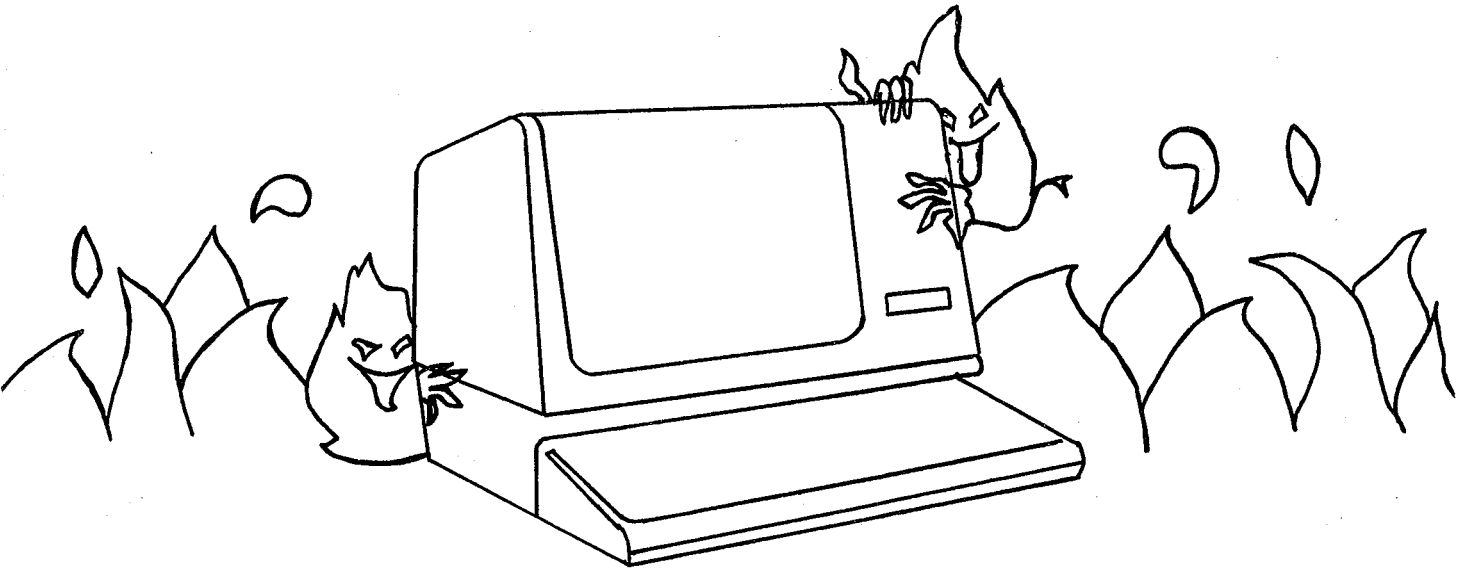
The Fire Behaviour system is a suite of programs developed jointly by Protection Branch and Computer Services and produced for the benefit of Forests Department Divisional staff during the fire season.

CONTENTS

1. INITIAL SCREENS

2. DAILY MAINTENANCE
   2.1 Breakdown of Daily Procedures

3. SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

4. IRREGULAR MAINTENANCE

5. SYSTEM PROBLEMS

1. INITIAL SCREENS

This is the first screen one sees in the Fire Behaviour System and is the means which offers the user a range of choices to enter:
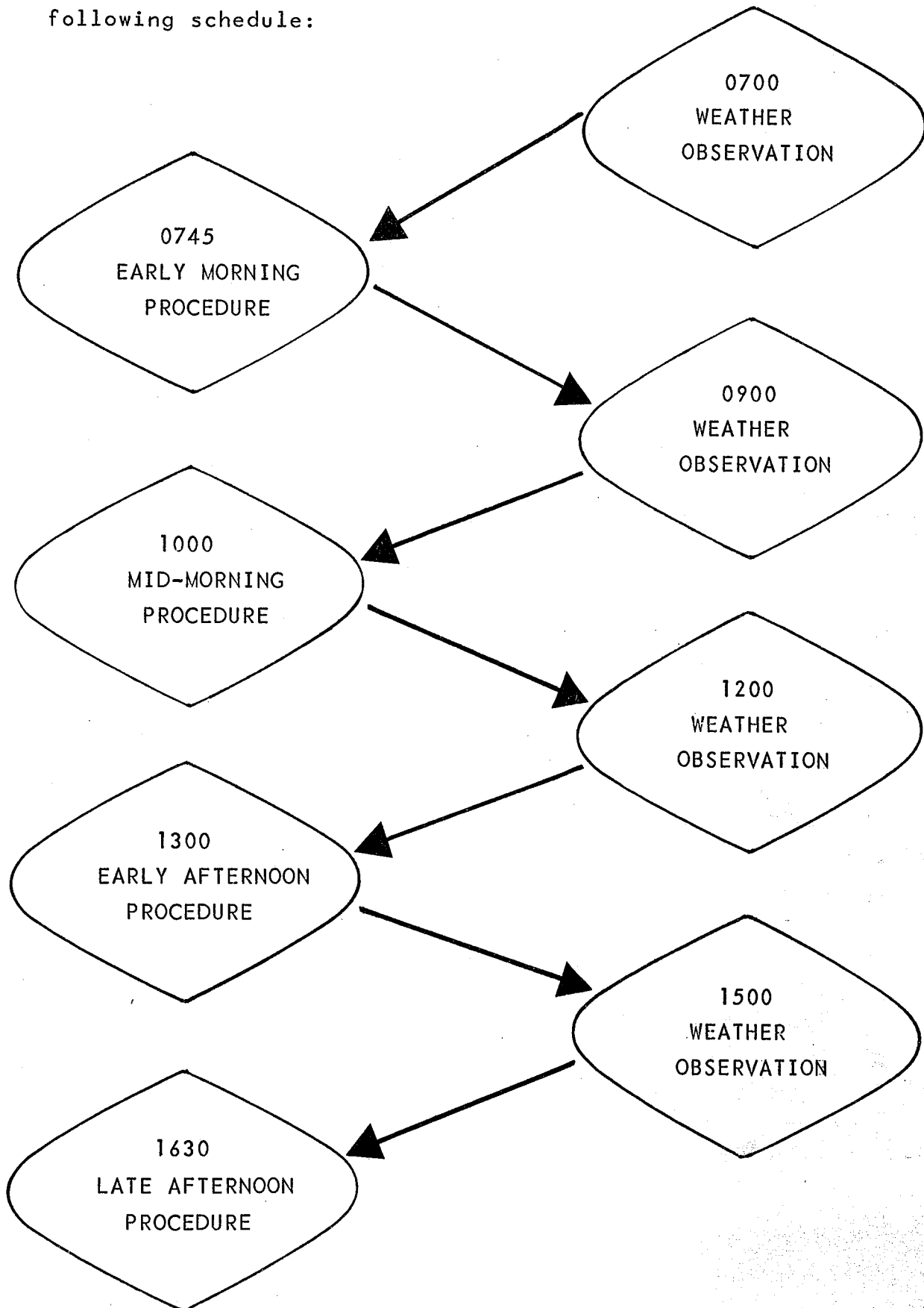
* * * FIRE BEHAVIOUR SYSTEM * * *

TRANSACTION TYPE	CODE	TRANSACTION TYPE	CODE
DAILY OPERATIONS		AD HOC OPERATIONS	
WEATHER OBS. MAINTENANCE	1	SEASONAL MAINTENANCE	7
EARLY MORNING PROCEDURE	2	IRREGULAR MAINTENANCE	8
MID MORNING PROCEDURE	3		
EARLY AFTERNOON PROCEDURE	4		
LATE AFTERNOON PROCEDURE	5		
BREAKDOWN OF DAILY PROCEDURES	6	F1 = EXIT AND F2 = E.C.M.	
		SELECTION (HE=HELP)	--

Usually Divisional staff need only be concerned about daily operations (see pages 10-11). However seasonal maintenance (see page 12) should be entered at the start of the fire season. Irregular maintenance (see page 13) is only done on an ad hoc basis to supplement the information produced by the daily operations.

2. DAILY OPERATIONS

Most Divisional staff needs to use the system based on the
following schedule:

0700
WEATHER
OBSERVATION

0745
EARLY MORNING
PROCEDURE

0900
WEATHER
OBSERVATION

1000
MID-MORNING
PROCEDURE

1200
WEATHER
OBSERVATION

1300
EARLY AFTERNOON
PROCEDURE

1500
WEATHER
OBSERVATION

1630
LATE AFTERNOON
PROCEDURE

2.1 Breakdown of Daily Procedures

Each procedure is broken into a number of parts, each of which can be run individually:
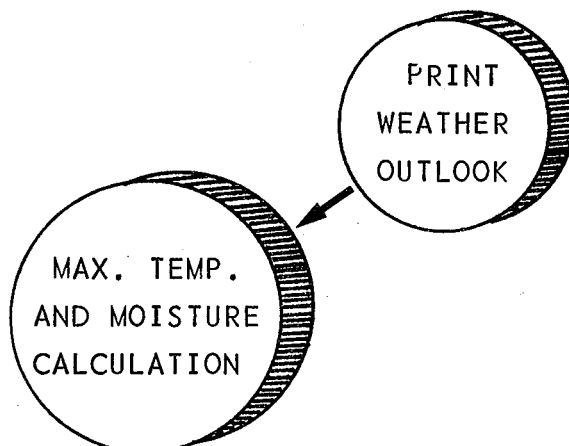
EARLY MORNING PROCEDURE
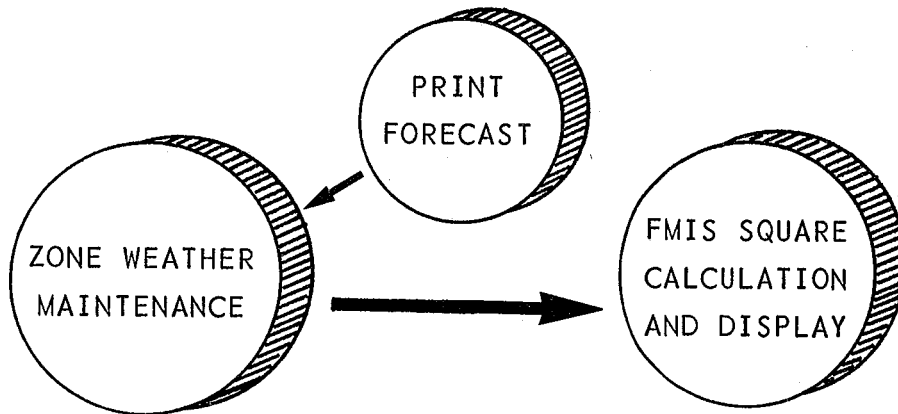
MID-MORNING PROCEDURE
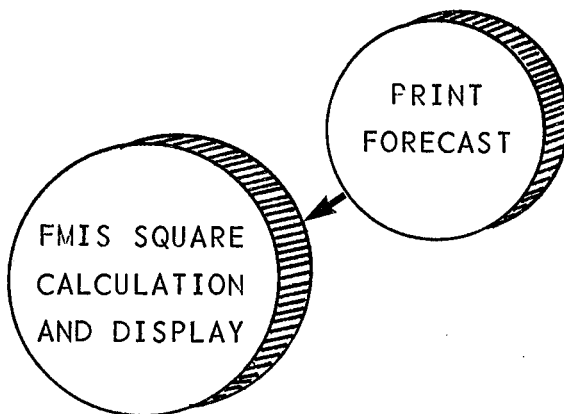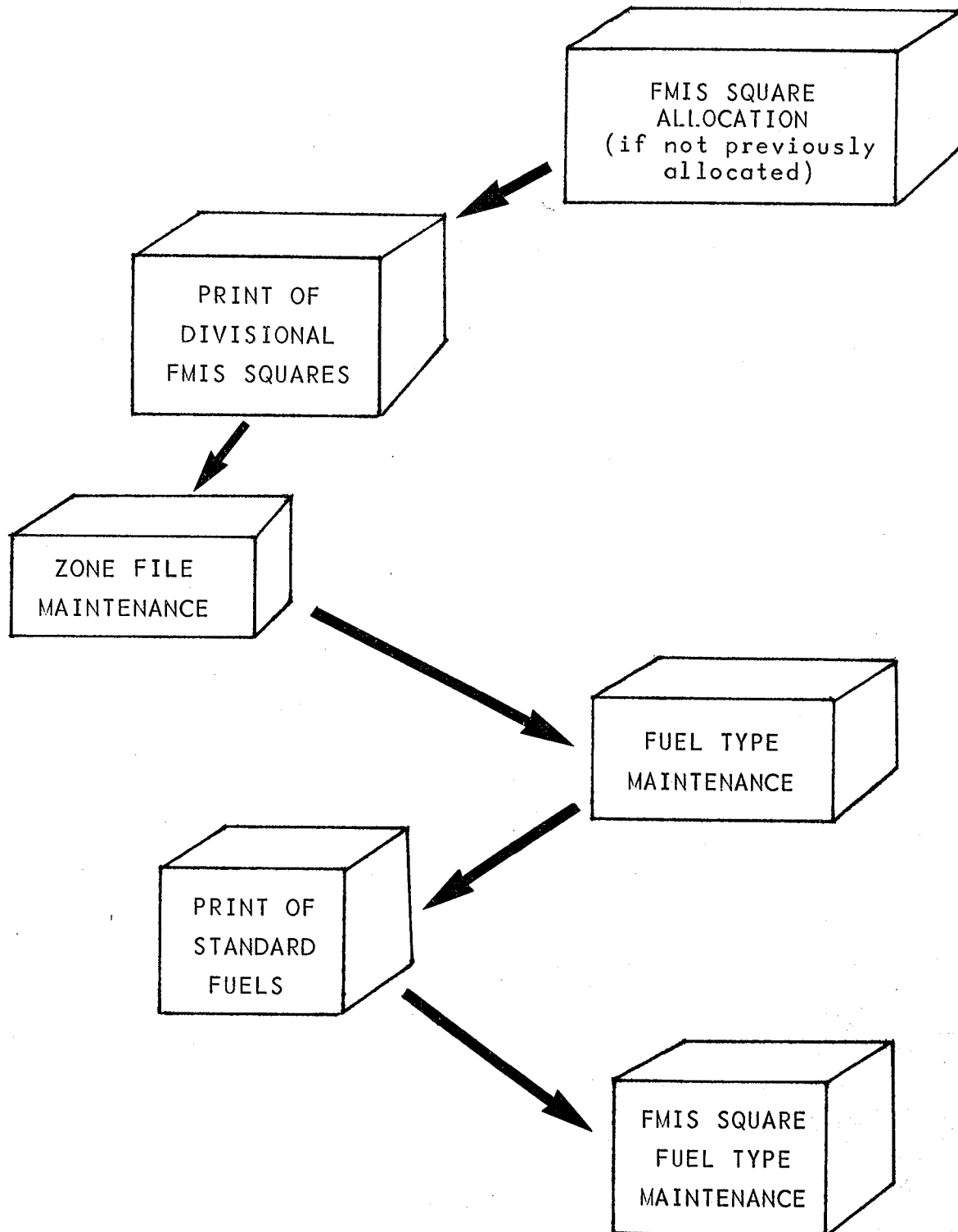

EARLY AFTERNOON PROCEDURE

### LATE AFTERNOON PROCEDURE

3. SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

Before the start of each fire season staff need to follow the schedule below where appropriate:

4. <u>IRREGULAR MAINTENANCE</u>

   During the fire season staff may have the need to supplement

   the information produced by the daily maintenance aspect of the

   system.   The following programs have been made available for

   your use as you wish:

FMIS SQUARE
FUEL TYPE
MOISTURE
MAINTENANCE
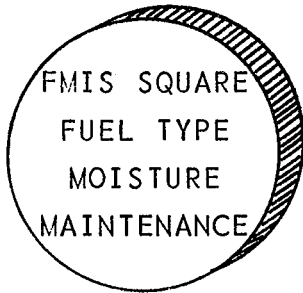
used for

Entering and updating S.M.C. &
P.M.C. values & fuel type onto
the block file.   This enables
A.F.F. for each fuel type within
any particular FMIS square to be
used in calculating H.F.R.O.S.

SIMULATE
HFROS
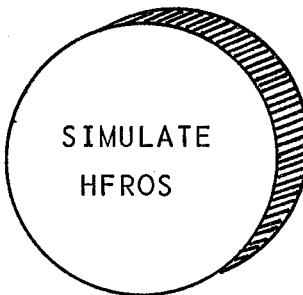
used to

Determine a HFROS for any area by
first calculating the moisture
content based on yesterday's
minimum S.M.C. for standard fuel
types & forecast weather in the
given zone.

DISTRIBUTE
WEATHER
FORECAST
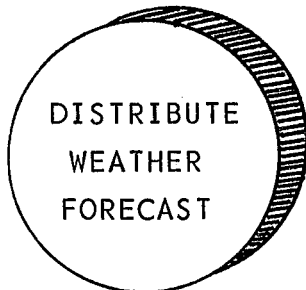
used to

Distribute the daily area forecast
and amendments to weather zones
for use by Divisions.
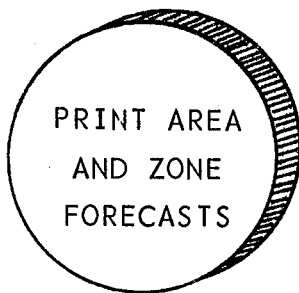
ZONE FILE
MAINTENANCE

used to

Create, delete and alter zone file,
e.g. change location and/or name
of zone.   Also change season from
spring to autumn.

4.   *Irregular Maintenance* *(continued)*

WEATHER
INFORMATION
ADD & DELETE

used to

Add or delete a weather
observation point. Largely
used by Divisions at start
of fire season.

PRINT AREA
AND ZONE
FORECASTS

used to

Give Area and Zone forecasts
on the screen. The user can
then print the screen, using
the standard print procedure.

5. TERMINAL AVAILABILITY

The Fire Behaviour System will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - EXCEPT for the following periods:

MONDAY - TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY between 1715 - 2000 hours

THURSDAY - FRIDAY   between 1830 - 2000 hours

During these times the machine goes down for backups of data files, which is necessary to secure information.

6. TERMINAL PROBLEMS

Any problem with terminal malfunctioning can be reported to:

Computer Services Operations Staff, S.H.Q., Extensions 232 & 274.

Weekdays

Glyn or Julie will be on site from 0700 - 2000 hours.

Weekends and Public Holidays

Revert to Manual System.

7. FIRE BEHAVIOUR SYSTEM PROBLEMS

Weekdays

When system fails to give you correct information, or some unusual message appears on the screen, contact Protection S.H.Q. Jean - 299 or Wendy 349.

Weekends and Public Holidays

Revert to Manual System.

8. TERMINAL AND SYSTEM PROBLEMS - TIME REQUIRED FOR SOLUTION

Problems will be fixed in as short a time as is feasible. When the problem isn't fixed immediately, you can be assured a solution is being worked out and you will be informed of the outcome as soon as possible.