

the aircraft constructors are making things difficult for us. We are also engaged in the development of trailer fire-fighting units. But now we hear that Canada, for example, has halved the danger from forest fires by disseminating fire prevention literature."

N. Kopylov (Deputy Head of the All-Union Fire Research Institute, USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs). "Very often, we are the first on the scene to combat a forest fire. But our equipment supply situation is no better than what we have for forest protection. In my view, we are exceedingly underequipped when it comes to fire protection, as demonstrated by the following figures: the overall requirement for fire protection equipment is being met by no more than 60 per cent, and for certain types of special equipment, including that which can be used for extinguishing forest fires, by no more than 50 per cent. Firefighters are losing their lives because of the lack of protective clothing. The requirement for oxygen-tight respirators is being met by only 11 per cent, but without these devices it is impossible to carry out rescue operations efficiently.

"Our institute has recently developed a whole series of tracked vehicles capable of actively and effectively combatting fires, including forest fires."

N. Andreev (General Director of "Avialesookhrana") "Fires need to be put out before they spread. In that event there will be no need for tanks, heavy equipment and fire-fighting aircraft in the numbers we have been talking about. But for the extinguishing of small fires we do have a present need for shovels. We also need motor-driven pumps, knapsack extinguishers and entrenching implements. But the most important thing is that all this should be of a high quality. Since 1981, however, we have had only 10 high-pressure motor-driven pumps. If we compare them with the Canadian pumps, they are not high-pressure pumps at all, but just the opposite... And consider the cost of