



### **IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE (LITTLE FIRE ANT - LFA)**

American Samoa has confirmed the presence of the Little Fire Ant (LFA) in one of the areas within the Territory. Such species is invasive in nature and very tiny and at times difficult to identify. The Little Fire Ant is dangerous for environment surroundings such as land, personal properties as well as human health.

The public, especially those travelling between American Samoa and the Independent State of Samoa are therefore advised to please, adhere to the following precautionary measures to avoid the Little Fire Ant (LFA) from entering Samoa's borders.

**(1) We request the public to be especially vigilant at this time and to check all cargoes (especially boxes, cooler bins and agricultural produce) for small, orange coloured ants.**

**(2) We have temporarily suspended the import permits for all fresh flowers and nursery stocks and any other planting materials for plants from American Samoa, Hawaii and other countries that recorded the presence of this Little Fire Ant such as New Caledonia, Tahiti, Guam, Wallis & Futuna, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.**

**(3) We are enforcing the use of low toxic insect sprays to apply on all incoming cargoes from the countries listed above at all entry points into Samoa on both sea and airports.**

MAF, MNRE and SPREP including our partners are working together to monitor the situation at hand and will try to prevent the LFA from entering Samoa. We will update the public with the developments of these efforts.

The **public's full cooperation** is requested as early detection of this ant could save Samoa from serious environmental, social and economic impacts later. If you detect any suspicious ants or should you need more information please call MAF on 20924/7767305 or MNRE on 67200/7538881.

Thank you.

**Chief Executive Officer - MNRE**

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