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Temperature in Riau worsens due to hot spots

PEKANBARU: Air temperature in Riau has been increasing due mainly to the rising number of hot spots in plantation and forest areas.

According to data from the Pekanbaru office of Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency, the number of hot spots in Riau nearly doubled to 75 as of Tuesday from only 39 one day earlier.

"The number of hot spots tends to rise, but their condition is still under control. If the Riau provincial administration is not able to handle the worsening temperature condition, it will surely ask for help from the central government," Mambang of the office said.

Since the beginning of April, several hot spots were monitored in a number of forest concession areas, 20 hot spots in timber estates and nine hot spots in oil palm plantations, he said.

Mambang explained that the Riau province had asked the Ministry of Forestry to review licenses of concessions, which were discovered to have burned forest for work expansion.

"Stern action should be taken against those causing forest fires so as to discourage them not to repeat it," he added. — JP