



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brooks Mendell  
President & CEO, Forisk Consulting  
770.725.8447  
bmendell@forisk.com

### Wood Fiber Managers Accounting for Forest Fires, Hurricanes, COVID and Lumber Prices

WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA – October 6, 2020 – “Risk” remained the watchword over the past three months as managers continued to battle multiple issues: fires, hurricanes, COVID, and high lumber prices. According to the *Forisk Wood Fiber Review*, lumber production surged in Q3 2020, generating more residual volumes into fiber markets while demand from the pulp and paper sector continued to struggle with the impacts of the coronavirus on end-market products.

The COVID-19 pandemic deteriorated market conditions for printing and writing paper while accelerating newsprint’s decline. In the woods, the combustible mix of hot weather, strong winds, and low humidity fueled explosive fires. These stories took attention away from Hurricane Laura, which snapped 30 million tons of pine and 9 million tons of hardwood in Louisiana alone, comprising more wood than in-state mills consume in a typical year.

Analysis of wood fiber pricing by Editor Tim Gammell and Senior Analyst Andrew Copley summarize key implications by North American region. For example, in the U.S.:

- In the Pacific Northwest, hardwood prices remained relatively stable while softwood roundwood and chips fell 13 to 16%.
- In the U.S. Lake States, hardwood chips remained relatively unchanged while softwood chips dropped 2% and roundwood products were down 4% for the quarter.
- In the Northeast, fiber prices fell 3 to 7%.
- Fiber prices in the Southeast declined as they did in Q1 and Q2: soft and hard roundwood fell 2% while softwood residual chip prices dropped 3%.
- In the U.S. South Central region, residual chips declined 1 to 2%; softwood roundwood prices fell 2% and hardwood decreased 3%.

For more information or to subscribe to the *Forisk Wood Fiber Review*, visit [www.forisk.com](http://www.forisk.com) or contact: Heather Clark, [hclark@forisk.com](mailto:hclark@forisk.com), 770.725.8447.

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About Forisk Consulting: Forisk delivers forecasts and analysis of forest industry markets and timberland investments. Firms participate in Forisk’s research program by subscribing to the *Forisk Research Quarterly (FRQ)*, *Forisk Wood Fiber Review*, *Forisk Market Bulletin* or North American Forest Industry Capacity Database; supporting benchmarking studies related to forest operations and mill capacities; and attending educational workshops and the annual “Wood Flows & Cash Flows” conference. [www.forisk.com](http://www.forisk.com).

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