



STAGE FLASH

Date: Friday, May 10th
Day: 1 **Flash N°:** 1
Special stage: El Pinar **Distance:** 17.11 km
Weather: Damp, dawn breaking and 7°C
Road conditions: Damp - gravel start, switching to clay and sandy sections

All WRC crews chose five medium compound tyres for the morning loop according to a Michelin spokesman.

Car 1. OGIER/INGRASSIA

Slight overshoot on a bridge cost around two seconds. "It's nice to see the stage. It was foggy in the recce. I had a little stall on a slippery bridge. I struggled a bit with understeer. The feeling is not too bad but the conditions are difficult."

Car 2. SUNINEN/SALMINEN

"It was quite horrible for us. There was some fog on the windscreen and I could not see. I was not confident at all."

Car 4. LAPPI/FERM

Stopped 8.4km into the stage for around 20 seconds. "We went wide on one corner after the water splash and I needed to reverse and it was a lot more muddy than I thought."

Car 5. MEEKE/MARSHALL

"So slippery to be honest. I had a lot of places where the road was broken and there was mud beneath."

Car 8. TÄNAK/JARVEOJA

Overshoot on same bridge as Ogier and lost over three seconds. "I stopped and could not restart. Not pleasant to drive. If we can fix the car (it will be pleasant to drive!), it will be."

Car 10. LATVALA/ANTTILA

"I am quite happy with that. It is not an easy stage when you recce in the fog. Some places were not correct in my pace notes."

Car 11. NEUVILLE/GILSOUL

"Not a nice start for me, I struggled to find confidence and my pace notes were not good at all. The conditions are changing a lot."



Car 19. LOEB/ELENA

“It was okay. Quite fast and slippery and a bit like Wales. Not an easy stage.”

Car 33. EVANS/MARTIN

“All okay. I was committed in places. It was not a perfect run by any means but I will take it.”

Car 37. BERTELLI/SCATTIOLIN

“It was two years not racing on gravel. The stage was very tricky and a good wake-up. I was struggling a lot.”

Car 89. MIKKELSEN/JAEGER

“I hit a big rock in the middle of the road. I could not do anything. I was not really on it in the faster sections after that.”