



Restricted Fire Season – Frequently Asked Questions

30 December 2013

“With all of the rain in the past few days, why can't I burn my rubbish?”

We've been asked this question a number of times in the last few days.

It is a valid question given that weather stations across the District have recorded rainfall (from Christmas day until the 29 December) between 61.9mm- 34.2mm.

So here is some further clarification on a Restricted Fire Season.

Can we have any fires?

A Restricted Fire Season does allow:

- Crop stubble burning
- Fires inside enclosed drums. Please refer to our website for specific details.
- Gas barbeques

Can I burn my rubbish?

Rubbish fires are never allowed in permanent living areas (e.g. townships District wide).

They are not currently allowed in rural area due to the current restrictions..

How do you decide if a Restricted Fire Season is put in place?

To establish a Restricted Season we have to consider a number of factors including:

- The fire weather indices including dryness of vegetation and weather conditions.
- Observations of the Rural Fire Officers and New Zealand Fire Service volunteers about the risk of a fire spreading if it started.
- The availability of fire fighters to respond to a fire. Obviously over a Christmas-New Year period a number of volunteers are away on holiday or spending time doing activities with family and friends outside of the District.
- Smoke. Although an obvious by-product of fires, smoking out your neighbours at any time is not desirable let alone at Christmas-New Year.
- What the neighbouring Rural Fire Authorities restrictions.

When will the restriction be reviewed/ likely to change?

The recent wet weather will have had an impact on the risk factors and our decision will be reviewed on 6 January.

Why can't you take off the restrictions now?

Given the amount of rain we have experienced all burn piles will be currently wet therefore difficult to light and very likely to smoke more than usual due. Therefore the Restricted Fire Season will stay as is until 6 January. This will allow the material to dry in preparedness for a possible easing of restrictions on 6 January but is also good for ensuring that people can enjoy the holiday period smoke free.