



Media release
Thursday 2 June 2016

Free session on Building Warrant of Fitness requirements

A free information session for commercial and public building owners is planned this month to discuss Building Warrant of Fitness requirements and building owners' responsibilities.

The session is being organised by Selwyn District Council's Building Team and will be held at Lincoln Event Centre on Thursday 23 June from 3-5pm.

A Building Warrant of Fitness is a certificate which is renewed annually and must be displayed in the building. It is a confirmation by the building owner that all of the specified systems in the building have been inspected by an independently qualified inspector and were operating correctly at the time the certificate was issued.

Larger commercial or public use buildings will usually have specified systems, as well as a most smaller commercial buildings. Specified systems are systems or features which need regular inspection and maintenance to check they are operating correctly so that the building provides a safe environment for the people using it. Specified systems can include fire alarms, sprinklers or other fire suppression systems, lifts, automatic doors, air conditioning systems, emergency lighting systems and a number of other items. On dairy farms, backflow preventers are a specified system which require regular checks.

Selwyn District Council Building Manager Ian Butler says the session will be helpful for people who own or manage buildings with specified systems and will also be of interest to anyone considering buying a commercial building as it will outline their responsibilities under the Building Act.

"Many of the specified systems installed in commercial or public buildings such as fire alarms, sprinklers and emergency lighting systems have been installed as a safety measure in case of an emergency so it is very important to the wider Selwyn community that building owners understand and meet their obligations to maintain a current Building Warrant of Fitness," Mr Butler says.

There are a number of enforcement options available to council if people don't meet their responsibilities to maintain a current Building Warrant of Fitness, including enforcement notices and prosecution.

To attend this free event please register by 5pm, Tuesday 21 June online at www.selwyn.govt.nz/register23June

Ends

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