



Media release
Monday 4 April 2016

Fire Restrictions lifted in Selwyn

The restricted fire season in place for Selwyn district's rural plains areas has been lifted from 8am on Monday 4 April. A year-round restricted fire season remains in place in the hill and high country of Selwyn district.

"While rain over recent weeks has reduced the fire risk, we request that people continue to exercise extreme caution if lighting a fire in the open and follow all safety precautions," says Selwyn Principal Rural Fire Officer Douglas Marshall.

Anyone lighting a fire in the open air must be in attendance and supervise the fire until it is completely extinguished. Fires can only be lit in daylight hours. Fires also should not be lit when strong winds are blowing or forecast and should be surrounded by adequate firebreaks which are clear of any standing vegetation. People should also make sure there is a water supply available near the fire.

"It will be common over the next few weeks for crop stubble burn offs to occur in rural areas in Selwyn. To avoid unnecessary call outs of volunteer fire forces people are asked to check whether fires are being supervised before dialling 111," Mr Marshall says.

Mr Marshall says fire restrictions may be re-imposed at a later date if weather conditions change to create a potentially dangerous fire situation.

The Council is reminding people that legal liability for costs associated in fighting an uncontrolled fire lie with the person who lit the fire.

The lifting of restrictions applies to rural areas administered by the Selwyn District Council, except for Department of Conservation (DOC) land within Selwyn and high country areas within Selwyn district. In hill and high country areas a permit is required for any outdoor fires. If you are unsure about the fire restrictions in place in your area, please check with the Council or DOC. Selwyn District Council Rural Fire staff can offer advice on any burning operations or fire permits - phone 347 2800 or 318 8338 for assistance.

Outdoor fires are not allowed in residential areas in Canterbury under Environment Canterbury rules, except for barbeques. See www.ecan.govt.nz/air

Ends

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