



Media release

Monday 15 February 2016

Fire risk increases with forecast hot weather

Selwyn residents are being warned that high temperatures this week will elevate the fire risk in the district.

Following rain in January, fire restrictions were lifted on 1 February and an open fire season is now in place in the rural areas of Selwyn's plains.

Selwyn Principal Rural Fire Officer Douglas Marshall says forecast temperatures in the 30s and high 20s this week through to the weekend will increase the fire risk.

"The hot and windy conditions will mean that fires are likely to spread rapidly and be difficult to suppress. We would ask people to take extreme care if they are lighting a fire and make sure that they supervise the fire at all times until the fire is out."

Mr Marshall says anyone who has lit a fire in recent months should carefully check that it is fully extinguished as fires can easily reignite in the forecast conditions. There are a number of other safety conditions that must be observed which can be read online at www.selwyn.govt.nz/fire. These include avoiding lighting fires in strong winds or when strong winds are forecast and ensuring an adequate fire break is in place.

Anyone who breaches the Council's Rural Fire bylaw can incur a fine of up to \$5000 and be liable for the costs associated with any damage from a fire or fire-fighting costs.

In hill and high country areas a permit is required for any outdoor fires. Outdoor fires are not allowed in residential areas in Canterbury under Environment Canterbury rules, except for barbeques. See www.ecan.govt.nz/air.

If you are unsure about the fire restrictions in place in your area, please check with the Council for advice on any burning operations or fire permits - phone 347 2800 or 318 8338 for assistance.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Allanah Jarman
Selwyn District Council
03 347 2807
allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz