



Media Release

Wednesday 9 November 2016

Fire training exercise planned for Darfield

Darfield residents shouldn't be alarmed if they see firetrucks flocking to the township later this month.

McHughs Forest Park will host a range of emergency response personnel on Wednesday 23 November as part of a major fire training exercise.

Rural fire brigades from across the district, New Zealand Fire Service personnel, council emergency response teams, and welfare and emergency management staff will take part in the training evening, which starts at approximately 7pm.

The training, named 'Exercise Homebush', will focus on the command and control of a large-scale fire incident and communication systems at the event.

The aim is to ensure the Council's emergency management team can efficiently manage different equipment and resources, plan a strategy to control the fire and implement that strategy in a safe and effective way.

"The training is occurring because experience tells us we get at least one major fire per season. We need to ensure we're performing to a high level because these incidents develop very quickly," says Selwyn District Council Emergency Management Officer, Ryan O'Rourke.

"When a large incident such as a forest fire occurs there are a number of different agencies involved so this training is a good opportunity for everyone to practice how we allocate roles and work together."

Around 50-60 people will be involved in the training, some located onsite at Darfield, and others at the Selwyn District Council headquarters in Rolleston. No fires will be lit as part of the training exercise.

McHughs Forest Park is located about one kilometre west of Darfield township.

Ends

Photo attached: *volunteer rural fire brigades and Council staff taking part in a regional fire training exercise at West Melton.*

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