



Media Release

Wednesday 10 April 2013

Open Fire Season

An open fire season will be declared in Selwyn District from Friday 12 April, and will apply in the plains area of Selwyn District.

In an open fire season outdoor fires can be lit without a fire permit, but best practice fire safety guidelines should always be observed to reduce the chances of a fire spreading.

Principal Rural Fire Officer Wilson Brown says that the rain which has fallen in the past week has reduced the fire risk and more rain is forecast over the next 10 days.

"There is no longer a high fire risk in Selwyn so we have introduced an open fire season. However people need to continue to be make sure if they light a fire that they have a water source on hand to put it out, avoid lighting fires in high winds, stay with the fire at all times and have a 10 metre fire break for crop fires."

Different rules regarding fires apply in the High Country and hill areas of Selwyn District. In these areas a restricted fire season is operating and a fire permit is required.

Environment Canterbury rules also prohibit burning in residential areas. Under these rules burning within a residential or living zoned area or burning within 100 metres of a residential zone or sensitive area (like a school or hospital) is not allowed. Barbeques and hangis are allowed.

Guidelines for safe burning are available online at Selwyn.govt.nz/fire.

Ends

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