



Media Release  
Tuesday 14 February 2017

## **Tai Tapu/Port Hills fires – update 10.30am Tuesday 14 February**

Two fires are continuing to burn this morning in the Tai Tapu/Port Hills area – one in the vicinity of Early Valley Road/Lansdowne, and the other in the Marley Hill area near the Summit Road. The fires cover an area of around 700 hectares.

### **Fire status**

The Early Valley Road fire started yesterday evening at around 6pm. It has since crossed Summit Road around the Kennedy's Bush area and at some other points. It is principally being fought by air with support from ground crews. Today crews will focus on protecting structures and controlling the fire, and protecting Kennedy's Bush.

The Marley Hill fire started in a car park around 7pm last night and spread west along the Summit Road area overnight. Protection of structures and the Christchurch Adventure Park and are also a focus for fire fighting.

Both fires are now being managed by one Emergency Operations Centre based at Selwyn District Council's Rolleston Headquarters as well as on site control points. Around 100 personnel are involved in fighting both fires, with 12 helicopters involved and one aircraft as well as several tankers.

Humidity levels are expected to drop today which will elevate the fire risk. A forecast wind change early afternoon is also requiring careful consideration.

### **Evacuations**

Around 24 properties were evacuated last night with evacuations remaining in place currently. Tai Tapu School was opened last night to receive evacuees but closed last night with all evacuees staying with friends and family except for one family who accommodation was arranged for. No further evacuations are anticipated to be needed currently.

One house has been confirmed destroyed by the fire, with a structure destroyed and one other house slightly damaged. All affected structures are in the Lansdowne area.

### **Road closures**

Road closures are in place on:

- Dyers Pass Road is closed from Hackthorne Road to Governors Bay Road. Use the Lyttelton Tunnel or Gebbies Pass as the alternate route
- Summit Road is closed between Gebbies Pass and Rapaki Track
- Old Tai Tapu Road is closed between Osterholts Road and SH75
- Early Valley Road is closed
- Holmes Road & Holmeswood Rise is closed

Road closures will be in place until at least midday today (when closures will be reviewed). Please stay well away from the area and off the roads – so that emergency services personnel can do their job and keep people safe.

Fire authorities are also asking people to avoid lighting fires today in Selwyn and Christchurch due to fire crews being stretched as they continue fighting the fires.

Ends

For media enquiries please contact:

Allanah Jarman  
Phone 03 347 2807  
[Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz)

Stephen Hill  
Phone 027 520 2011  
[Stephen.hill@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:Stephen.hill@selwyn.govt.nz)