



Media Release
Tuesday 14 February 2017

Tai Tapu/Port Hills fires – update 3pm Tuesday 14 February

Fire fighters continue to battle fires at two locations in the Tai Tapu/Port Hills area. The two fire are currently approximately 600 hectares in total size.

The Marley Hill fire appears to be largely contained on the city side of the Summit Road. Parts of the Early Valley Road fire have crossed the Summit Road towards Governors Bay. Current activity across both fires is focused on efforts to protect structures and prevent the fire from spreading.

The fires are being fought with two aircraft, 12 helicopters and around 100-120 firefighters.

Firefighters are making good progress in bringing the fires under control but expect to be working on the fires for another 48-72 hours.

Fire services are continuing to monitor conditions as increased winds and warmer temperatures are possible later today.

One house has been confirmed destroyed by the fire, with another structure destroyed and one other house slightly damaged. All affected structures are in the Lansdowne area. There have been no further evacuations this morning.

A fire investigation will be undertaken, which is standard procedure for large fires.

Road closures

These road closures remain in place until further notice:

- 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

Residents are allowed access to their homes on Holmes Road and Holmeswood Rise. The road is not open to through traffic.

No fly zone

A no fly zone is in place in an area bound by Princess Margaret Hospital, Sugarloaf, Teddington, and Tai Tapu until midday Friday 17 February.

The restriction is in place for the safety of aircraft operators working on the fires, as multiple aircraft are operating in difficult conditions.

Other information

Christchurch Adventure Park is closed today.

Health advice

Canterbury District Health Board (Community and Public Health Division) have issued the following health advice for residents:

Vegetation fires are currently creating a number of issues for Canterbury residents. Smoke may irritate the eyes, nose, throat and airways. Symptoms can include runny or sore eyes, dry or sore throat, sore nose, cough, tightness of the chest or difficulty breathing.

The small particles in smoke are more harmful than the larger particles because they can be inhaled deep into the lungs.

In healthy people, most symptoms disappear soon after exposure to smoke ends and do not cause long-term health problems. Make your GP team your first call 24/7 for #carearoundtheclock. In an emergency phone 111. For all other health care needs make your usual general practice team your first call – after hours, and when they're closed, a team or nurses is ready to take your call. They can tell you what to do and where to go if you need to be seen urgently.

Smokers, the elderly, children and those with heart disease, asthma or other lung disease are at greatest risk of harm from smoke inhalation. Avoid exposure where possible by staying indoors and closing windows and doors.

Seek medical help if your symptoms worsen, especially if you have asthma, lung or heart disease, or if you start to experience breathlessness or chest pain. If you did not experience any symptoms at the time you were exposed to the smoke, you are very unlikely to have any long-term health effects.

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