



Media Release

Wednesday 27 February 2013

## Prohibited Fire Season declared in Selwyn

A prohibited fire season will be introduced in Selwyn District on Friday 1 March.

In a prohibited fire season no outdoor fires can be lit in the district. The burning of crop stubble is also not allowed. Gas barbeques with a high pressure water source at hand are allowed but not charcoal barbeques.

The district's Principal Rural Fire Officer Wilson Brown says that the fire risk is extreme. "We moved into a restricted fire season following a brief spell of rain, but the district is once again very dry, so it's appropriate that a prohibited fire season be declared."

"We recognise that restrictions on the ability of farmers to burn crop residue will be frustrating but our primary focus must be on reducing the fire risk in the district in order to protect lives and property."

Mr Brown says the Council will be reviewing the prohibited fire season status regularly and will lift restrictions as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

During a prohibited fire season all fire permits previously issued by the Council are cancelled.

### Reducing fire risk

You can help to reduce the fire risk, and make sure that fire services can quickly access your property to put out a fire if one does start, by:

- keeping the grass green, mown, or grazed around your home
- making sure your property number is easy to see
- keeping a hose connected that can reach round the house
- ensuring that your driveway has an access way which is at least four metres wide and four metres high so that a fire engine can get in and out
- storing firewood and other flammable materials away from the house
- regularly check and maintain machinery and equipment so it is safe to operate
- disposing of ashes safely in a metal container and use approved incinerators
- keeping grass away from under hedges

Certain types of plants are more flammable than others. To find out more about planting less flammable species and reducing fire risk on your property visit [www.selwyn.govt.nz/fire](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz/fire) and select the 'fire safety' link.

If you see a fire burning out of control, phone 111 immediately to report it.

Ends

For more information please contact:

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