



Media release

Monday 18 January 2016

Restricted Fire Season introduced in Selwyn

Fire restrictions have been introduced in Selwyn district.

A prohibited fire season (total fire ban) was in place across the district, but following recent rain the fire status has been altered to move to a restricted fire season in the rural areas of Selwyn district, as from 8am Monday 18 January.

“The change follows rain during January which has reduced the fire risk from extreme to moderate,” says Principal Rural Fire Officer Douglas Marshall.

In a restricted fire season, only gas barbeques, crop residue and rubbish fires inside contained drums are allowed in rural areas of Selwyn. Vegetation fires to burn trees or other items are not allowed unless permitted. There are a number of conditions which must be met before fires can be lit.

Permits for any burning not specified as allowed above in a restricted fire season will be extremely limited and only approved where an urgent need for a property owner is identified. Applications for a permit can be made online at www.selwyn.govt.nz.

With the change in restrictions, crop stubble fires may be seen in rural areas in Selwyn. People are asked to check whether anyone is present to control the fire before reporting it via 111 to avoid unnecessary call outs to volunteer fire brigades. If no one is present to control the fire it should be reported by dialling 111.

The Council will be monitoring the fire risk daily, and restrictions may be changed based on fire risk indices. The council reminds property owners that fires not either permitted or allowed under the restrictions will incur a fine of \$1,150.

In residential areas the only type of fire permitted throughout the year is a gas barbeque. Any other fires need a resource consent from Environment Canterbury.

Ends

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