



Media Release  
Monday 9 March 2015

## **Total fire ban lifted in Selwyn but Fire Restrictions remain**

A total fire ban in Selwyn District has been lifted, however fire restrictions remain in place.

Rain over the past couple of days and further rain forecast over the next week has enabled fire restrictions to be lifted and the district to move back to a restricted fire season, effective from 8.30am today.

The lifting of the prohibition means that farmers can now burn crop residue without a permit, providing safe burning guidelines are followed. These guidelines require:

- A firebreak 10 metres wide of bare earth to be cleared surrounding the area to be burnt
- Fires may only be lit during daylight and must be out by dark
- No fires shall be lit when strong winds are blowing or forecast. The maximum allowable wind strength is 20 km/hr
- Adequate fire suppression equipment must be on hand, including a portable water supply
- The fire must be supervised during and after the burn so that any escape can be detected escape. The fire must be continuously supervised.

Further information on guidelines is available online at [www.selwyn.govt.nz/ruralfire](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz/ruralfire).

Currently permits will not be issued for the burning of rubbish, land clearing operations or other vegetation, in order to manage the risk throughout the district. Once crop residue burns have largely been completed this decision will be reviewed.

“People are reminded that the costs of extinguishing an escaped fire and any fire damage lies solely with the person responsible for the fire,” said Selwyn Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer Douglas Marshall.

“It’s important to realise that there is still an elevated risk and all farmers need to be aware of this and exercise an appropriate level of caution when burning stubble.”

Staff will continue to closely monitor the situation and, in particular, farmer compliance with the safe burning guidelines.

Farmers also need to be considerate of neighbours and sensitive areas like roads and townships and consider wind and smoke drift before lighting.

For further information visit [www.selwyn.govt.nz/ruralfire](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz/ruralfire) or phone 03 347 2800 or 03 318 8338.

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