



Media Release

Friday 14 August 2015

## Sign up to Selwyn Gets Ready and win

This August, Selwyn households are being invited to sign up to the Selwyn Gets Ready website and go into the draw to win one of five household emergency 'grab and go' kits valued at \$145.

The kits contain 23 items including a first aid kit, a torch with radio, an emergency tent and blanket, water purification tablets, and large water container. To join the website and go into the draw, visit [www.selwyn.getsready.net](http://www.selwyn.getsready.net) by 31 August and enter your details. If you have already registered you will be in the draw so don't need to sign up again.

The Selwyn Gets Ready website is a database which contains contact information for local residents. This information is used by local community response teams to identify who needs assistance in an emergency and who has skills or resources (like first aid skills, generators and four wheel drives) that could help in a disaster. In a disaster a network of community response teams operate in Selwyn and each team is responsible for checking on the welfare of their community, identifying what needs to be done in their area, solving local problems if they can and requesting assistance if needed. Nearly 6,000 Selwyn households are already registered with Selwyn Gets Ready, and around 120 people are members of local community response teams.

The Selwyn Gets Ready system can also be used to send texts or emails warning people of severe weather or other emergencies. Householder's information is restricted to their neighbourhood support group coordinators and the local community response team and cannot be viewed by the public.

"A recent example of how Selwyn Gets Ready can help communities occurred in January when a fire at Flock Hill threatened Castle Hill township," says Sue Jenkins, Selwyn District Council's Community Resilience and Emergency Management Coordinator.

"The system was used to text and email people advising them to be ready to evacuate if needed. The local community response team also visited local houses to warn people in person."

Fortunately the fire was brought under control and Castle Hill did not need to be evacuated.

"Selwyn is very fortunate to have a large number of volunteers as neighbourhood support group coordinators and on local community response teams who help their communities in emergencies," says Mrs Jenkins.

Ends

Photo attached: *members of the Castle Hill community response team, one of many teams in Selwyn who have been active in helping their community*

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