



Media Release

Friday 18 December 2015

Volunteer rural firefighters ready for busy season

Members of the Darfield Rural Fire Force are ready for what could be a busy fire season this summer, after completing essential training.

The 18 new recruits have recently completed their Basic Firefighting training, which tested them on the theory and practical elements of the fundamentals of firefighting.

This included dry and wet firefighting techniques, basic use of equipment and how to stay safe while fighting vegetation fires.

As a result of completing the training, the firefighters now have three unit standards which all firefighters must obtain in order to successfully work on the fire line.

Four new volunteers for the Lake Coleridge Rural Fire Force also completed their unit standards, as well as three from West Melton Fire Force, and five from the Selwyn District Council Emergency Response Team.

Leading up to the training, Selwyn District Council Rural Fire Officers ran weekly sessions to familiarise the volunteers with firefighting equipment and how to use water to effectively fight fire using different kinds of pumps.

Selwyn District Council Emergency Management Support Officer Carrie Lakin and Fire Force Commander Mark Strowger took the introductory sessions.

Ms Lakin says that the sessions had a significant turnout and helped to prepare the volunteers for what is expected to be a busy fire season.

“We are really lucky to have a group of such passionate and dedicated people. They all have different skills they can add to the team and it’s great to see they are so keen to support their communities” says Ms Lakin.

The Darfield Rural Fire Force will work together with the HEB fire force to provide a boosted firefighting capability this summer.

The volunteers will continued to be mentored and work with experienced firefighters, with training being held on a weekly basis.

A prohibited fire season has been in place in Selwyn District since early December. Vegetation across the district remains very dry, despite recent rain, and the fire restriction is needed to help ensure that the risk of fires breaking out is minimised.

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