



Media release

Wednesday 27 November 2013

## Fire Training Exercise

A training exercise for rural fire crews will take place near West Melton on Wednesday 4 December.

The exercise will provide further training for rural fire crews from around the South Island in protecting houses, building and vegetation using fire retardants. The exercise will take place at an ECAN property, just west of the West Melton Firing Range.

“The exercise will involve crews practising extinguishing a fire by dropping fire retardant from a helicopter and a small aircraft,” says Wilson Brown, Selwyn’s Principal Rural Fire Officer.

“This type of fire-fighting activity is common in larger fires and the exercise will help rural fire crews from around the South Island to become more familiar with aerial fire-fighting techniques,” he says.

Mr Brown says the recent rain means that conditions in Selwyn are good for this type of exercise.

The exercise will be overseen by the Canterbury Regional Rural Fire Committee and fire fighting equipment will be present as well as two Australian experts with experience in this method of fire control.

“People in the West Melton area may notice smoke on the day of the exercise coming from the exercise area and aircraft activity at the site,” says Mr Brown. “This is a normal part of the training exercise and people should not be alarmed by this.”

If conditions are not suitable for the exercise to take place on Wednesday 4 December it will occur on Thursday 5 December.

Ends

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