



Media release

Thursday 26 March 2015

Fire Restrictions to be lifted from 30 March

A restricted fire season in place for Selwyn district's rural plains areas will be lifted from 8am on Monday 30 March. A year round restricted fire season remains in the hill and high country of Selwyn district.

"While rain over recent weeks has reduced the fire risk, we request that people continue to exercise extreme caution about lighting a fire in the open," says Selwyn Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer Douglas Marshall.

"There is still a moderate risk of a fire getting out of control due to the large build-up of long dry grass and standing vegetation which are dry as a result of below average rainfall of recent months. People need to consider this and exercise caution before lighting a fire."

Anyone lighting a fire in the open air must be in attendance and supervise the fire until it is completely extinguished. Fires can only be lit in daylight hours. Fires also should not be lit when strong winds are blowing or forecast and should be surrounded by adequate firebreaks which are clear of any standing vegetation. People should also make sure there is a water supply available near the fire.

Mr Marshall says fire restrictions may be re-imposed at a later date if weather conditions change to create a potentially dangerous fire situation.

The Council is reminding people that legal liability for costs associated in fighting an uncontrolled fire lie with the person who lit the fire.

The lifting of restrictions applies to rural areas administered by the Selwyn District Council, except for Department of Conservation (DOC) land within Selwyn and high country areas within Selwyn district. If you are unsure about the fire restrictions in place in your area, please check with the Council or DOC. Selwyn District Council Rural Fire staff can offer advice on any burning operations or fire permits by phoning 347 2800 or 318 8338.

Outdoor fires are not allowed in residential areas in Canterbury under Environment Canterbury rules. See www.ecan.govt.nz/air

Ends

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