



Media release
20 December 2013

Fire restrictions introduced in Selwyn

A restricted fire season will be introduced in Selwyn District from 10pm on Monday 23 December 2013.

In residential areas the only type of out door fire permitted is a gas barbeque, Hangi or UMU. All other fires need resource consent from ECAN.

Under a restricted fire season, only gas barbeques, crop residue and fires inside enclosed drums are allowed in rural areas of Selwyn. There are a number of conditions which must be met before fires can be lit (see 'What's allowed in a restricted fire season' below). Any other fires can only be lit if a fire permit has been obtained from Selwyn District Council.

The Council's Principal Rural Fire Officer, Wilson Brown, says "that if people are thinking of lighting a fire, they should always check whether they can do so and what the rules and safety guidelines they must meet by visiting the Council website, www.selwyn.govt.nz/fire,".

"Over summer people may see crop residue fires burning. Fire crews are often called out to attend rural fires that are being supervised and managed appropriately, "

"It's expensive and time consuming for volunteer fire fighters to attend false call outs so we encourage people to consider whether a fire is an emergency before they dial 111. If there are people on site supervising the fire, a fire break and water on hand it is probably a controlled operation – however if there is no one present people should report this fire by dialing 111."

What's allowed in a restricted fire season in rural areas.

- Gas barbeques are allowed if a water source is nearby.
- Fires inside enclosed drums are allowed. Only vegetation, paper, cardboard and untreated wood can be burned and the fire must be lit during daylight hours and attended at all times. A water source must be nearby to extinguish the fire if needed and the fire must not be lit when strong winds are blowing or forecast

- The burning of crop residue is allowed but only during daylight hours and must be attended at all times. Fires must not be lit when strong winds are blowing or forecast, fire fighting equipment and an adequate water source must be nearby. A 10 metre firebreak to bare mineral earth must be cleared around the edge of the area to be burnt
- Fires may be lit if a fire permit has been issued by Selwyn District Council and the conditions of the permit are followed
- In the Hill and High country areas of Selwyn, a restricted fire season is permanently in place.

What's not allowed:

- Any type of fire not listed as permitted above

Ends

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