

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
OPEN AIR FIRE CONTROL MEASURES

PROHIBITED FIRE SEASON – Ashburton Lakes and Rakaia Gorge

Pursuant to Section 19 of Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 notice is hereby given that a **Prohibited Fire Season** has been declared **from midnight Friday 23rd January 2009** for the **Rakaia Gorge and Ashburton Lakes areas to the Main Divide**, west of a line from the Rakaia River, up Glenrock Stream to Turtons Saddle, then a direct line to Mount Taylor, Mount Barrosa and the Rangitata River at Boundary Stream. This means that the lighting of all fires in the open air in the above referenced part of the Ashburton District is forbidden, with the exception of gas fired barbecues and gas cookers. This prohibition shall remain in force until further notice.

RESTRICTED FIRE SEASON – Plains and Foothills

Pursuant to Section 19 of Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 notice is hereby given that the **Restricted Fire Season** declared **on midnight Friday 16 January 2009** for the **Ashburton District plains and foothills area** east of a line as described above remains in force. This means that the lighting of all fires in the open air east of the line as described above is forbidden without permit except as described below. This restriction shall remain in force until further notice.

Further information is available on the Ashburton District Council website at www.ashburtondc.govt.nz

ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY AIR QUALITY RULES AND ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL BYLAW PROHIBIT ALL OUTDOOR FIRES IN ALL URBAN AREAS AND ADJACENT INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF THE DISTRICT AT ANY TIME.

EXCEPTIONS DURING RESTRICTED FIRE SEASON:

The following are approved activities allowed under special authority issued under Section 23 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977:

- **Gas fuelled barbeques lit in properly constructed containers, and gas cookers.**
- **Hangis, subject to the conditions described below.**
- **Fires lit in fully enclosed drums, subject to the conditions described below.**
- **The burning of agricultural crop residues, stubble or straw, subject to the conditions described below.**

Burning Conditions - Fires In Enclosed Drums:

- Drums must be covered with wire mesh sized no greater than 20mm or have a lid and flue with a spark arrester fitted.
- There must be a 3 metre area clear of combustible material surrounding the drum.
- The area must be serviced by a high pressure water system.
- Burning to be carried out during daylight hours only.
- There must be someone in attendance at all times while burning.
- No fires are to be lit when strong winds are blowing or forecast.
- No fires are to be lit or allowed to burn when the smoke is likely to cause a nuisance to neighbours.
- No fires are to be lit or allowed to burn in any urban areas of the district, or any industrial areas adjacent to urban areas, at any time.

Burning Conditions - Hangis:

- The fire must be lit and contained within the hangi pit
- There must be a 3 metre area clear of combustible material surrounding the pit.
- The area must be serviced by a high pressure water system.
- Burning to be carried out during daylight hours only.
- There must be someone in attendance at all times while burning.
- No fires are to be lit when strong winds are blowing or forecast.

- No fires are to be lit or allowed to burn when the smoke is likely to cause a nuisance to neighbours.

Burning Conditions – Agricultural Crop Residue:

- The prevailing wind at the time shall not exceed 15 km per hour. (leaves and small twigs in motion; wind extends small flags)
- No person shall light any fire without first checking the long term weather forecast, and furthermore, that forecast to show settled weather for at least 24 hours following the time of lighting of any fire.
- The controlled burn shall be conducted during the hours of daylight only.
- The area to be burnt shall be fully surrounded by a continuous fire break cleared of all combustible material to a minimum width of 5 metres.
- A portable water supply sufficient to suppress any wildfire that may result from the controlled burn, and a means of delivery for that water, is to be on site for the duration of the burn, and must remain on site until the fire is completely out.
- Burnout from the prepared firebreak to increase the initial firebreak width is strongly recommended for all controlled burns.
- Lightup should commence at the downwind end of the paddock, followed by the flanks.
- Immediately following the burn the firebreak and adjacent burnt area of windrow is to be cultivated to minimise the risk of re-ignition.
- In all cases constant supervision is required. It is recommended a minimum of two adults be present and the person lighting the fire must stay in attendance until the fire is completely out.
- Regular patrolling of the fire perimeter is to be conducted wherever practical and safe.
- It is recommended a cellphone be on site for early warning should the controlled burn escape.
- The person lighting the fire should have current insurances for public liability and fire suppression in place.

The conditions as listed above are the bare minimum and total compliance is required.

Compliance with all the conditions listed above in no way invalidates the responsibility of the person lighting the fire should that fire escape and require suppression measures and later be the subject of legal claims for damages or suppression cost recoveries.

Persons lighting fires during a restricted fire season are reminded that these conditions must be complied with at all times. Care and vigilance is required to ensure that all fires are dampened down and fully extinguished afterwards.

DON GEDDES
Principal Rural Fire Officer