



FIRE CONTROL MEASURES – RESTRICTED FIRE SEASON

Pursuant to Section 19 of Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 notice is hereby given that a **Restricted Fire Season** has been declared for that part of the Ashburton District for which the Ashburton District Council is the Rural Fire Authority **from midnight Wednesday 23 December 2009**. This means that the lighting of fires in the open air in the Ashburton District is prohibited without permit except as described below. This restriction shall remain in force until further notice. A permit is required from the Department of Conservation for any fires on or within 1 km of any Crown land.

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

EXCEPTIONS:

- **The following are approved activities allowed under special authority issued under Section 23 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977:**
- **Gas fired barbeques lit in properly constructed containers.**
- **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:

- No fires are to be lit within urban areas of the District at any time.
- 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.

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.
- Burning out from the prepared firebreak to increase the initial firebreak width is strongly recommended for all controlled burns.
- 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