

Waimea Rural Fire District



Date: 6 June 2012
To: Waimea Rural Fire Committee
From: Ian Reade, Principal Rural Fire Officer

Subject: Monthly Report for May 2012

REDUCTION

1. Fire Permits

Permits have been issued for a longer period through to the end of August.

Issuing of fire permits for the restricted burning area within TDC have stopped as of the end of May and will recommence on the 1st Sept.

PRFO conducted 7 permit inspections for new applicants during the month.

Unfortunately George Duff our Golden Bay RFO has taken ill so has been unable to do permits for a time. These have been handled from Richmond in the meantime.

2. Wildfire Threat Analysis

A meeting was had with Rob Goldring (NRFA WTA project leader), John Barnes, PRFO and Doug Anderson going over the current and future thinking on WTA development and implementation.

3. FireSmart

A meeting with Lakes staff has laid out a plan to develop FireSmart in the community there. Michele Steinberg, a FireSmart guru from the US and over here as a Guest Speaker at the FFRANZ conference is available to present to the community as well as the school. The Fire Service has also been invited to participate to push smoke alarms during the same campaign. The community field day held each year at St Arnaud will also be targeted for promotion.

4. Media

Nil Activity.

READINESS

1. Waimea Rural Fire Committee

Meeting scheduled for 15th June.

2. Rural Water Supplies

The PRFO inspected and surveyed a property in the Motueka River for existing water storage for fire fighting in lieu of storage tanks.

TDC are currently evaluating feedback from the consultation period on rural dwelling fire fighting water supplies.

3. Stakeholder Engagement

An operational audit was carried out with Nelson lakes VRFF along with planning on a FireSmart program.

Nelson City have been asked if they would like to make use of Michele Steinberg in raising awareness of FireSmart in the Atawhai area.

Discussions and an offer of attending a local branch meeting have been made with Gavin O'Donnell, local president Federated Farmers and Ngatimoti VRFF member.

4. Nelson Marlborough Regional Rural Fire Committee

A meeting between the PRFO of the Marl /Kaikoura RFD, the WRFD and the Area Manager NZFS has been scheduled for mid July. The purpose of the meeting is to develop the relationships with the view to establishing a regional incident management team. Discussion around other operational initiatives will also be on the agenda. As yet a decision on who joins the West Coast / Canterbury RRFC and how they do this has not been made. The hurdle so far is the 9 meetings a year they currently have.

5. Training

A start has been made on integrating DOC staff into the RFN IMT training program. This should be completed early June as there have been issues with people having training in fire behaviour but not having them recorded on their Record of Learning. We are working with Emqual and EMANZ to correct this - a slow process.

The PRFO assisted with the revision of the unit standards 14555 &14554, carry out and direct defensive attack on structure fires.

Two one day courses for unit standard 14564 Fire Environment were held late May. Thirty people attended 14564, and 19 for unit 14556 Apply fire weather index. These units are critical in teaching fire fighters the effect the fire environment has on fire behaviour. Several key CIMS team members attended. In total 12 DOC Staff, 7 VRFF, 5 Helicopter pilots with the other 25 coming from forestry contractors, stakeholders and Nelmac.

Work has started on reviewing the training for the 2012/13 year. CIMS training will be the main focus with fire fighting safety and refresher training a close second.

6. Equipment Maintenance

Twenty pairs of overalls have had the non complying reflector tape removed and complying tape sewn on.

Wainui VRFF took delivery of their new Smoke Chaser to replace the ute they lost in the December floods. Many thanks need to go to DOC and Martin Rodd who assisted in procuring a suitable vehicle from the ex DOC fleet.

Other vehicle maintenance included tyres, brakes and CAFS motor repairs. Barry has several wajax pump motors to repair along with a pump unit.

7. Weather Stations

Pokororo had a replacement Temp / RH probe fitted during the month.

A paper has been prepared for the Committee meeting in June offering options for weather station management going forward. With the new web based fire weather platform being implemented by NRFA each of the stations will need to have an upgraded data logger by mid 2013. RFN is currently preparing the grant subsidy applications for submission before the end of June.

8. Fire Danger Levels

All FWI signs have remained on Moderate toward the end of the month. Fire weather indices all climbed on what they were in April. The lack of wind during the month kept the FWI at moderate levels.

Maximum Figures for month: May 2012

| | Nelson Aero | Dovedale | Hira | Western Boundary | St Arnaud | Totaranui |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| BUI | 28 (Green) | 15 (Green) | 34 (Green) | 12 (Green) | 16 (Green) | 10 (Green) |
| FWI | 11 (Very High) | 5 (Moderate) | 7 (Moderate) | 2 (Low) | 6 (Moderate) | 2 (Low) |

Rainfall for the month:

| (mm) | Nelson Aero | Dovedale | Hira | Western Boundary | St Arnaud | Totaranui |
|------------|-------------|----------|------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total Rain | 29.6 | 46.4 | 22.8 | 35 | 52.6 | 93.6 |

9. Precautionary Measures

Nil.

10. Fire Lookout

Currently unattended.

11. National Rural Fire Authority

During the month RFN made claims against the NRFA subsidy for fire overalls replaced due to non-compliance issues and the Glen Hira VRFF depot. We are currently waiting on payment.

12. Volunteer Rural Fire Forces

- Ngatimoti VRFF has received notice that they are the winner of the EMQUAL "Training in Excellent Award" for 2011. Emqual make this annual award to a VRFF and to an NZ Urban Fire Brigade. Ngatimoti was voted the best VRFF team in NZ for commitment made to training and achieving National Certificates during 2011. Ngatimoti are the third VRFF within the WRFD to achieve this award - others being Appleby in 2007, and Brightwater in 2009.
- A "National Certificate Fire & Rescue Services Level 2" was issued to Ivan Riordan Upper Takaka VRFF during the month.
- We have representative's from Appleby, Hira, Brightwater, Motueka, Marahau and Ngatimoti VRFF's attending the FRFANZ Conference in August. The theme is Firesmart and Pam Holyoake from Marahau VRFF will be doing a presentation on what the residents at Toko Ngawa Point have developed. Keynote speaker Michele Steinberg from the National Fire Protection Association USA will be visiting Marahau after the Conference before travelling south to Southern RFD.
- RFN are currently working on new administration systems for each of the VRFF's which includes a review of the current VRFF agreement. During the month VRFF's were canvassed about potential changes to the VRFF agreement with the WRFA around payment terms and sizes of their zones of responsibility. A recommendation for review is to be put to the June Committee meeting.
- Neil Gardiner the Controller for Upper Takaka VRFF has indicated that he is to resign from the VRFF due to him taking up a new role away from Upper Takaka.

RESPONSE

1. 111" Callouts

| Callout Type | Month Rural | Month Total | YTD Rural (from 1 July) | YTD Total |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Vegetation Fire | | | 34 | 37 |
| Rubbish Fire | 1 | 1 | 17 | 20 |
| Recreation Fire | | 1 | 10 | 16 |
| Vehicle Fire | | 1 | 7 | 11 |
| Structures | 6 | 6 | 26 | 41 |
| Other-Fire | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| MVA | 5 | 11 | 44 | 98 |
| Medical | 2 | 5 | 16 | 56 |
| Hazchem | | | 4 | 4 |
| Other-Non Fire | | 1 | 3 | 71 |
| False Alarm | 6 | 7 | 55 | 76 |
| Total: | 21 | 33 | 242 | 434 |

| Zone | Stakeholder | Location | Month Rural | Month Total | YTD Rural | YTD Total |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | TDC | Coastal | 11 | 14 | 103 | 162 |
| 2 | TBFC(Hancock) | Moutere | 3 | 5 | 36 | 51 |
| 3 | Nelson Forests | Golden Downs | | 1 | 9 | 28 |
| 4 | DOC | Westbank | | 3 | 18 | 33 |
| 5 | NCC | Nelson | 3 | 3 | 34 | 47 |
| 6 | TBFC(Hancock) | Hira | | | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | DOC | Eastern Hills | | | | |
| 8 | DOC | Lakes | | | 14 | 28 |
| 9 | TDC | Golden Bay | 1 | 1 | 18 | 58 |
| 10 | DOC | Golden Bay | 3 | 6 | 5 | 20 |
| Total: | | | 21 | 33 | 242 | 434 |
| | | | | | | |

2. Fire Incidents

A quiet month on Vegetation fires, with all associated callouts being false alarms due to permits being issued or rubbish / recreational fires.

A large fire consuming a house and shed was experienced on the end of the RFD this month. The fire was attended by urban crews and Brighwater VRFF. The cause of the fire is suspicious and being investigated.

Arsonist

The Arsonist arrested in April in connection with the Tapawera fires is still in custody. His name suppression is still in place.

RECOVERY

1. Fire Debriefs

Nil

2. Fire Investigations

Chris Millson has completed Hope Road and Kyfuik fire investigations.

3. Cost Recovery

Waiting on fire investigation costs for Hope Road and Kyfuik Fires.

Ian Reade
 PRFO
 Waimea Rural Fire Authority