



## **PRINCIPAL RURAL FIRE OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

2013/14 has been a period of much change, and also heralds probably even more change going forward.

New Health and Safety legislation will impact how we operate. This legislation is scheduled to become law on 1 April 2015, but we will be reacting to pending changes as these become understood, rather than waiting until 1 April. We are collaborating with other ERFD and NZ Fire Service on how these changes will affect us, and what we must do to remain compliant with legislation. Our attention to this will remain our top priority.

Our focus has expanded from mainly response to the four R's of Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery, particularly concentrating on reduction – how may we reduce the number and consequences of fires. We are using our Wildfire Threat Analysis (WTA) to develop Risk Management Plans (RMP) and Tactical Plans (TP). The Wairarapa has been zoned into seven rural fire management zones, each with a RMP. The RMP concentrates mainly on Reduction – what are the risks and how can these be eliminated or isolated. If a zone, or an area within a zone, included some risk that is impractical or unrealistic to eliminate or isolate, a Tactical Plan may be included that identifies Response requirements that may be additional to our Fire Plan response protocols.

2014/15 marks the 10 year anniversary of the Wairarapa Rural Fire District (WRFD) as the RFA for the Wairarapa. WRFD was gazetted on 1 December 2004, and became the legal entity from that date.

### **STAFF:**

We employed Grant Detheridge-Davies as our Community and Education Coordinator replacing Travis Howell, and employed Rob Hood as our new Operations Manager in October 2013, as per our Business Plan

A review of primary responsibilities for each position meant we aligned Health and Safety to Grant's role and training to Rob's, as this was a better fit for each job.

At a national level, this 2013/14 year ended with the retirement of Murray Dudfield, National Rural Fire Officer since the position was established in 1990.

## **OUTCOMES FOR 2013/14**

### **KPI's:**

To qualify for our Administration Grant we need to meet KPI's set by NRFA. WRFD continues to qualify for and receive our Administration Grant.

### **FINANCIAL:**

The audited Financial Statements are as presented.

### **FIRE ACTIVITY (Response):**

History -

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10
<b># fires</b>	147	102	229	160	104
<b># notifications</b>	212	357	471	366	319
<b>Area burnt</b>	>250ha	50	89.6 ha	55.8 ha	51.9 ha
<b>Forest loss</b>	>200ha	15 ha	40.7 ha	7.8 ha	8.3 ha

History -

	10/11*	11/12	12/13	13/14		
<b># fires</b>	170	100	161	115		
<b># notifications</b>	396	289	345	334		
<b>Area burnt</b>	47.3 ha	20.8 ha	261.3ha	10.0ha		
<b>Forest loss</b>	7.4 ha	7.2 ha	237.7ha	2.6ha		

- \* is for 14 months to change end of year from 30 April to 30 June

### **FIRE COST RECOVERIES (Recovery):**

A total of 11 fires resulted in cost recovery actions this year. We also successfully recovered costs for the Kaikuri Fire from the previous year, through a claim on the RFFF.

### **FIRE SEASON (Reduction, Readiness):**

A much more benign year and summer after last year's record dry. This is reflected in the drop in the consequences of fires – smaller fires with minimal losses or damage.

There is a direct correlation between fire season severity and the number of fires we respond to each year. With 115 fires this year, we are well below our 'average' of 143 fires per year, and these fires were easier to deal with, with 10.0 hectares total and 2.6 ha of forests being our lowest area burned since the WRFD was established.

**WRFD KPI's (4 R's):**

WRFD meets the NRFA standard for timely response to fires.

WRFD maintained a compliant Rural Risk Register (updated in September).

WRFD meets the NRFA standard for Risk Reduction Strategy.

Developing Risk Management Plans was held up waiting for templates and guidelines.

Five Operating Committee meetings held.

WRFD still has work to do to meet NRFA standards for training, although good progress has been made (see information later in report).

WRFD continues to be compliant with legislative requirements for –

- fire control measures,
- our Fire Plan, and
- NRFA standards for PPE, fire equipment, hose and waterway equipment, and weather readings.

**REGIONAL CO-OPERATION (Reduction, Readiness and Response):**

A new initiative promoted by WRFD was the forming of a Southern North Island Rural Fire Committee covering all RFA's from Taranaki down to Wellington and including the Chatham Islands. This group includes 3 ERFD.

This committee now has a very good regional RIMT protocol and MOU for assisting each other, with an improved system for activation, and a wider range of skills and numbers of people available to us should we need them.

This group is also sharing knowledge and actions developing our Risk Management Plans and Tactical Plans.

**TRAINING (Readiness, Response):**

Training continues to be a priority for us.

All eight of our VRFF are now fully compliant with the national standard for fireground entry.

More than half of our VRFF meet the national standard for qualified firefighters and pump operators.

All new volunteers sign up to become fully qualified firefighters within two years of joining.

Ian Hunter, Controller, Tora VRFF attained his National Certificate in Fire and Rescue Services – Vegetation, Level Two.

**PUBLICITY (Reduction, Readiness):**

WRFD now has a website [www.wrfd.org.nz](http://www.wrfd.org.nz) . This allows us to provide timely information to the public, on-line fire permit applications, live weather and fire weather information and forecasting, and links and reports for our VRFF.

**EQUIPMENT (Readiness, Response):**

A new Isuzu fire appliance was commissioned for Riversdale Beach and Districts VRFF.

We commissioned 4 new Harvest weather stations to complement our three existing stations. We now have live access to all data, we can control the collection and use of that data, we have a live link with the NRFA Fire Weather System (FWSYS), and we show this FWSYS information live on our website. We are the first RFA in the country to do this.

Ngawi volunteers are now supplied with telepaggers for incident turnout. We are extending our pager turnout capacity to all our VRFF (Castlepoint, Tinui, Tora and Riversdale Beach). Mauriceville, Wainuioru and Lake Ferry have had this service for a number of years now.

**NATIONAL INITIATIVES (4 R's):**

WRFD staff had input into the following NRFA projects –

- Developing the Fire Weather System;
- Review of national signage standards;
- Review of training standards;
- Review of PMEF;
- Qualifications review; and
- Review of fire fighter fitness guidelines.

**FIRE PLAN (4 R's):**

Our WRFD Fire Plan remains current and complying with legislation. It will be reviewed in August/September.

**BUSINESS PLANNING:**

Our Strategic Plan sets out a map of future activities and intentions for the next 10 years. A key purpose in this is to assist our stakeholders with long term financial planning, especially as this aligns with the District Council LTCCP process.

The Strategic Plan and our Business Plan were reviewed and updated in January.

**EXPOSURES AND RISKS:**

Exposures and risks facing WRFD going forward include –

- New Health and Safety legislation;
- Training requirements;
- Powerlines in trees;
- Legal mandate for rural fires only;
- Still some old appliances and pumps;
- Rural depopulation; and
- Volunteers are risk averse.

**FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE:**

- Continue with equipment upgrades;
- Emphasis on reduction activities
- Fire history and causation
- High threat area response plans (Tactical Plans)

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PRFO, WRFD. October 2014

Appendix A: Annual return of Fires

Appendix B: Area Burnt by Wildfires



# Appendix A

## Annual Return of Fires by Classification

Enter the number of fires by Classification type, for each business year [i.e. 1 July to 30 June]  
Refer Guideline Notes at bottom of page.

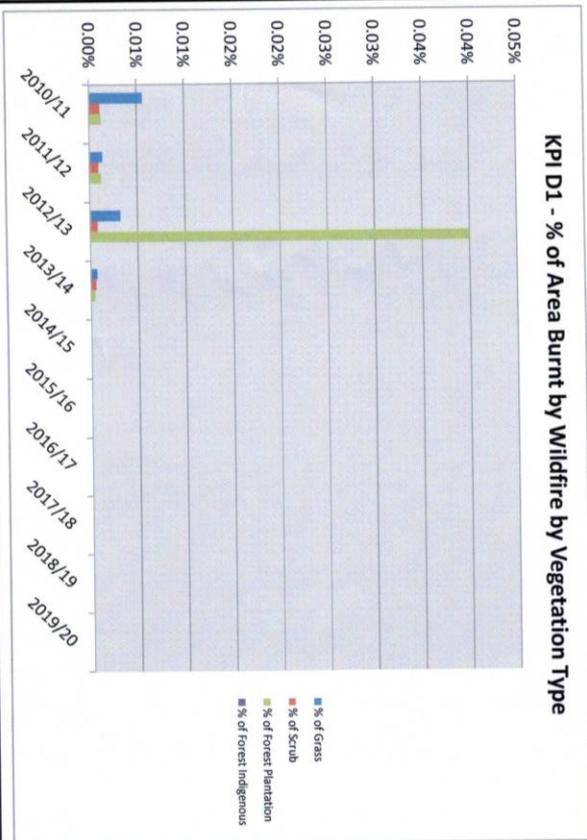
Classification type	No. Fires									
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Power Lines	20	15	5	31						
Lightning	0	0	0	0						
Vehicle - Car, Truck Etc	18	2	5	4						
Farm/forest Machinery	3	1	7	6						
Railways	0	0	0	0						
Camp Fires/Bonfires/Rubbish fires	69	27	26	36						
Smokers	0	0	1	0						
Land Clearing Escaped- Open Fire Season	12	5	9	10						
Land Clearing Escaped- Restricted/Prohibited Fire Season [No Fire Permit]	0	0	0	0						
Land Clearing Escaped- Restricted/Prohibited Fire Season [Fire Permit Issued]	0	0	0	0						
Arson - Vehicle/Machinery/Structure	0	0	3	0						
Arson - Vegetation	5	11	7	0						
Structural - House/Shed	12	13	33	9						
Structural - Industrial Building	23	20	11	10						
Spontaneous Combustion	6	1	3	5						
Pyrotechnics/Fireworks	2	3	1	1						
Unknown	1	1	10	3						
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Classification type	Guideline Notes, where fire starts are within a classification type
Power Lines	Fires starting from powerlines e.g. broken lines, conductors, tree over lines.
Lightning	Fires resulting from lightning strikes
Vehicle - Car, Truck Etc	Vegetation fires (non-deliberate) caused by vehicles - cars, trucks etc.
Farm/forest Machinery	Vegetation fires (non-deliberate) caused by farm/forest machinery - tractors, harvesting equipment, chainsaws etc
Railways	Vegetation fires from Railways operations and use e.g. train brake or bearing collapse, track operational works
Camp Fires/Bonfires/Rubbish Fires	Vegetation fires originating from camp fires, bonfires, beach fires, cooking fires, rubbish fires etc
Smokers	Vegetation fires caused by cigarettes, etc
Land Clearing Escaped - Open Fire Season	Landclearing fires lit in an Open Fire season which have subsequently escaped.
Land Clearing Escaped - Restricted/Prohibited Fire Season [no fire permit]	Landclearing fires lit in a Restricted or Prohibited Fire season, with no fire permit having been issued, which have subsequently escaped.
Land Clearing Escaped - Restricted/Prohibited Fire Season [fire permit]	Landclearing fires lit in a Restricted or Prohibited Fire season, with a fire permit issued, which have subsequently escaped.
Arson - Vehicle/Machinery/Structure	Deliberately lit fires involving vehicles, machinery or structures.
Arson - Vegetation	Deliberately lit vegetation fires.
Structural (Non-Deliberate) House/Shed	Fires (non-deliberate) originating from or within a house, shed or other domestic type of structure
Structural (Non-Deliberate) - Industrial Building	Fires (non-deliberate) originating from or within an industrial building e.g. a factory, processing plant
Spontaneous Combustion	Fires starting as a result of spontaneous combustion
Pyrotechnics/Fireworks	Fires starting as a result of the use of Pyrotechnics or fireworks
Unknown	Fire type and/or cause is not known

**KPI D1 - Percentage of Area Burnt by Wildfires by Vegetation Type**

Year	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Grass Area	33.20	8.00	18.96	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
% of Grass	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Scrub Area	6.70	5.60	4.70	3.40	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
% of Scrub	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Forest Plantation Area	7.40	7.20	237.70	2.60	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
% of Forest Plantation	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Forest Indigenous Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
% of Forest Indigenous	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Total Area Burnt	47.30	20.80	261.36	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total No. Of Vegetation Fires	116	45	121	63						

**KPI D1 - % of Area Burnt by Wildfire by Vegetation Type**



**Definition**

Purpose measure and important to the community and the sector.

Specific and Measurable.

Enter the RFA Total Area first (box below).

Then enter the area burnt each year by vegetation type (Grass, Scrub, Forest Plantation & Forest Indigenous).

Then enter the total number of Vegetation Fires.

**D1=Vegetation wildfires only**

RFA Total Area: 593624.00