WAIRARAPA
RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

Standard Burning Conditions

It is your responsibility to ensure your fire is safe. As well as meeting the specific burning conditions for your fire type you need to ensure you comply with the standard burning conditions in order for your fire to be considered safe.

1. You must take adequate measures to control the fire and confine it to the burn area.
2. A long range weather forecast must be obtained prior to lighting.
3. No fire shall be lit when conditions are such or are predicted that the fire is likely to spread (e.g. strong winds). Fires should not be lit with a wind in excess of 15 kmh. Where there are significant areas of scrub and tussock adjacent to the area to be burned the maximum wind must not exceed 11 kmh. Use the Beaufort Wind Scale table as a guide, (table attached).
4. You are advised that to reduce the risk of fires getting out of control, burning should be carried out in the afternoon (after 1pm by which time the wind pattern for the day is usually established).
5. At the first indication of any adverse change in weather or other conditions which could move the fire out of the controlled area the fire is to be extinguished immediately.
6. In the event of any fire moving outside the area, dial 111 and ask for a Fire Service response.
7. Ensure that smoke does not create a nuisance to neighbouring properties and public roads.
8. You are advised to contact the appropriate authority before lighting fires adjacent to power and telegraph installations.

Keep You and Your Family Safe

If you are going to burn here are some tips to keep yourself and your family safe.

Keeping Safe

- Wear long sleeved natural fibre clothing, such as cotton or wool. Synthetic materials can melt and can cause severe injuries.
- Wear laced up leather boots and head protection.
- Plan how you are going to burn to ensure the weather conditions, fire breaks and methods for lighting up are right for the conditions.
- Always have a planned safe escape route away from the fire.
- Planning for the worst case, so you have adequate resources to control the fire if things don’t go to plan. Plan escape routes if necessary
- Being flexible, if the weather changes during a burn, or the day is not right when you plan to burn, change your plans to suit the weather.

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Know your responsibility

- It is the responsibility of the person lighting the fire to ensure there are sufficient resources on site to manage the fire and that the fire is contained at all times.

- A fire should not be lit unless public liability and fire suppression insurance is taken out.

- Liability for damage or fire suppression costs caused by any fire is the responsibility of the person lighting the fire.

Plan ahead

- Think about the time of year you want to burn. During March-April and September-November the Wairarapa often experiences strong equinoctial winds making burning potentially dangerous. Fire bans or restrictions can be put in place during summer.

- Give your vegetation plenty of time to dry out. The majority of sap is water. Stacking your vegetation and leaving for up to six months will allow it to dry out and give you a much better burn.

- If possible cut and stack your vegetation in the spring and burn in the autumn. This gives the vegetation plenty of time to dry, producing a good clean burn and reduces the likely hood of fire escaping as we enter the wetter time of year.

If you have any questions or require a fire permit ring Wairarapa Rural Fire on 06 3709557.

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Wind Specifications - Beaufort Wind Scale

Beaufort Wind Force	Descriptive Term	Km/h	Observable Wind Effects
0	Calm	< 1	No perceptible wind movement. Smoke rises vertically.
1	Very Light Air	1 to 5	Direction of wind shown by smoke drift but not by wind vanes.
2	Light Breeze	6 to 11	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vanes moved by wind.
3	Gentle Breeze	12 to 19	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flags.
4	Moderate Breeze	20 to 29	Wind raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved.
5	Fresh Breeze	30 to 39	Large branches and small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland waters.
6	Strong Breeze	40 to 49	Large branches in continuous motion; whistling heard in telegraph wires; umbrellas used with difficulty.
7	Near Gale	50 to 61	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against wind.
8	Gale	62 to 74	Breaks twigs and small branches off trees; generally impedes progress when walking against wind.
9	Strong Gale	75 to 87	Slight structural damage occurs (e.g. chimney bricks loosened, TV antennas and tiles blown off, broken branches litter ground).
10	Storm	89 to 101	Trees uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs.