

Fire Safety Tips



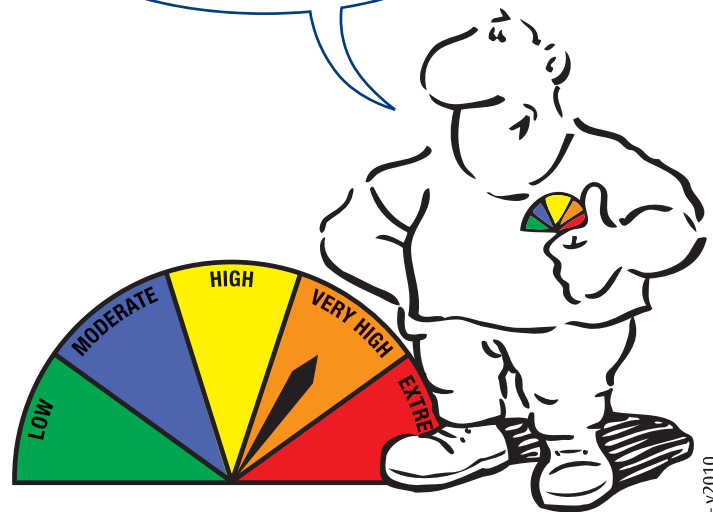
When using forests, parks and rural lands for leisure activities check for any rules with the land manager or owner.

- Maintain vehicles, machinery and equipment (including quad bikes and motor bikes)
 - Check to see if spark arrestors are required on exhaust systems
 - Maintain the exhaust system on machinery
 - Do not leave machinery engines running while parked over dry flammable material
- Dispose of cigarette butts carefully
- Find out about any fire restrictions and the current Fire Danger before going into forests, parks and rural areas
- Ensure access to water if lighting a fire
- Check for any rules in relation to campfires, gas cookers and established cooking areas
- Do not leave any campfire unattended
- Ensure your campfire is extinguished before leaving
- If in doubt do not light a fire
- Dispose of any ashes carefully
- Take all rubbish out of the area with you.



Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation


Ring 111 immediately if you see a wild fire



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Recreation in Rural Areas



Rural Fire Rules – are you aware?



Introduction

i This pamphlet provides information to recreational users of rural land (trampers, campers, mountaineers, trail riders, hunters, fishers and mountain bikers) on the risks of fires in forests, parks and rural areas.

The rules relating to fires are different in forests and rural areas.

You need to be aware that the costs of fighting fires in rural areas can be passed on to persons responsible for causing them. Fire suppression is expensive and can run into costs exceeding \$250,000. Some recreational groups have fire suppression insurance cover for their members in case they cause a fire. It may be worthwhile for you to also arrange your own individual fire suppression cover.



Fire seasons and fire permits – How the rural fire system works

There are **three** fire seasons you should be aware of:



Open – no fire permit is required to light a fire in the open air



Restricted – a fire permit is required to light a fire in the open air



Prohibited – means a ban on the lighting of any fires in the open air



You should check what fire season is operating if you are travelling through or visiting a rural area. Changes to fire seasons are notified by radio announcements and/or newspaper advertisements or information is available directly from the relevant rural fire authority.

When Restricted or Prohibited fire seasons are in place the relevant Rural Fire Authority will also erect signs within the affected area notifying you of this.



When do I need a fire permit?



You will need a permit during a Restricted fire season, which you will obtain from the local Rural Fire Authority. Even if you have a permit you are still responsible for any fire that escapes and causes damage. Failure to obtain a permit for a fire during a Restricted fire season is also an offence against the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977.

Rural Fire Authorities are:

- The Department of Conservation
- NZ Defence Force
- Rural Fire Districts
- Local Councils

Rural Fire Authorities manage the rules around lighting fires on rural land.