

Hot Spot

November 2016

Fire Season Forecast

A weak La Niña over the next three months will bring higher than normal fire danger to parts of Southland. Temperatures are likely to be above average while rain fall will be near normal over the summer months.

It is important to note that El Niño-Southern Oscillation accounts for less than 25% of the seasonal rainfall and temperatures but won't predict how people will burn.

Get Ready

With equinoctial winds starting to blow and things are getting warmer, it's time to check your kit. Make sure your overalls, helmet, gloves and boots are all in working order. If you need any gear let your manager or Controller know.

Chuck in a few snacks, a bottle of water and warm cloths incase you are out longer than expected.

Just a reminder, if anyone turns up not properly dressed for a fire (like this bunch of pillocks) you won't be allowed on the fire ground.



360 Degree Size Up

Situational awareness starts with capturing clues in your environment and then understanding what those clues mean. A 360 degree size up helps you capture that information.

An experienced member of your team should walk around the incident (as much as practical) and assess the potential hazards and the fire environment and report back to the Crew Leader.

Although it might take one or two minutes to conduct a 360, it has the potential to provide greater overall safety throughout the remaining course of the fire.

360 degree size ups should be conducted regularly throughout an incident to identify new hazards, ensure awareness of fire environment and retain situational awareness.



Situational Awareness
What were you focused on while reading?

Training

It's been a great year of training with lots of stuff burnt.

Since March Southern Rural Fire Fighters have completed over 518 days of training and gained 656 credits for unit standards achieved. Southern Rural Fire staff have been involved in a total of 99 training days and nights.

This is a great achievement by all. A summary of training for each team will be out shortly along with next year's training objectives.



Reno's on the Volunteer Stations

Athol, Garston and Waikawa Fire Sheds have been undergoing a bit of a revamp in recent months.

Garston kicked things off by lining the walls of the shed, installing a kitchenette and fridge, making the old fire shed a place where people want to hang out.



Waikawa followed suit by grinding and sealing the floor so you were no longer cloaked in a cloud of cement dust whenever you entered the buildings. They are also on the way to getting the walls lined and making the place cosier

Athol has had a makeover with a new roof, ground and sealed floors along with a Fonterra sponsored 10,000 litre water tank, to allow easy filling of the fire truck. Great job Teams

FENZ Update

Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) has published a blue print for Day One of the new organisation (1st July 2017), a full version of this document can be found [here](#).

Here are some of the things it covers:

- 1st of July is the beginning, it will take up to four years to implement the new structure and ten years to imbed the new culture of FENZ.
- Southern Rural Fire will cease to exist on 1st July and FENZ will start. In other areas this means rural fire activities carried out by councils, DOC and forest industry fire teams will also cease and be handed to FENZ.
- DOC and Defence Force will have a three year MOU with FENZ while they work out how best to integrate them into the new organisation.
- Rebranding will start with the small easy things (signs, websites) and move into larger more costly items (trucks, uniforms, PPE) over time.
- As well as responding to fires there will be a greater emphasis on working with communities to reduce the occurrence of fire.
- Greater support will be given to volunteers.

Want to know more, go to <http://fenzproject.co.nz/>