

Fire Fighter Newsletter

June 2012

View from the Top

Firstly I would like to thank everyone involved in rural fire, especially over the very dry and busy summer period we experienced. It was great to see fire fighters aware of the extreme dry and ready to respond when the balloon went up.

In total Southern Rural Fire Authority's resources responded to 156 fires from January to April with the majority of these been vegetation fires which were dealt with in a few hours. Only a few fires around Catlins and Tuatapere were longer duration lasting 7-20 days.

Agency

Southroads	12
SouthWood Export	9
Rayonier	6
Invercargill City Council Parks	14
Heslip Forest Contracting	15
Fulton Hogan	14
Ernslaw One Ltd	8
DOC - Te Anau	24
DOC - Stewart Island	15
DOC - Invercargill	24
Branchout	13
Total:	154

Southern Rural Fire currently has a total of 282 fire fighters spread across 8

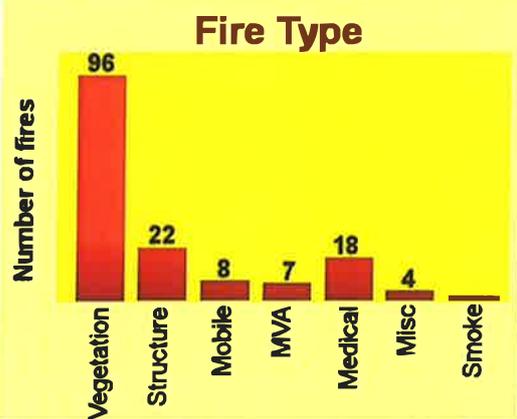
volunteer fire forces and 11 Agency fire teams. As was tested over summer Southern Rural Fire is well placed to deal with a variety of fire events due to its diverse and capable fire fighters and compatible equipment. However we do not rest and continue to upgrade fire trucks and equipment and ensure fire fighters are trained for fire events.

Thanks to all those who participated in a recent phone survey to gauging the level of satisfaction people feel at being part of SRFA. The survey was carried out by an independent company. Two areas the draft report highlights was the need for better communication with fire fighters and ongoing and more practical training. Once the report is completed we will share the results with you.

With our team of 3.5 people we will endeavour to take on the recommendations from this report and look forward to working with you. In the mean time I would encourage you to participate in this winters fire training, ask questions and learn what you can after all you're the one at the hot end of the fire.

Mike Grant

Find out more about the fires attended by Southern Rural Fire's resources:



Volunteers

Athol	8
Beaumont	12
Blackmount	16
Drummond	16
Garston	13
Hedgehope	20
Milford Sound	16
Waikawa	16
Total:	117



New Editions to Southern Rural Fire

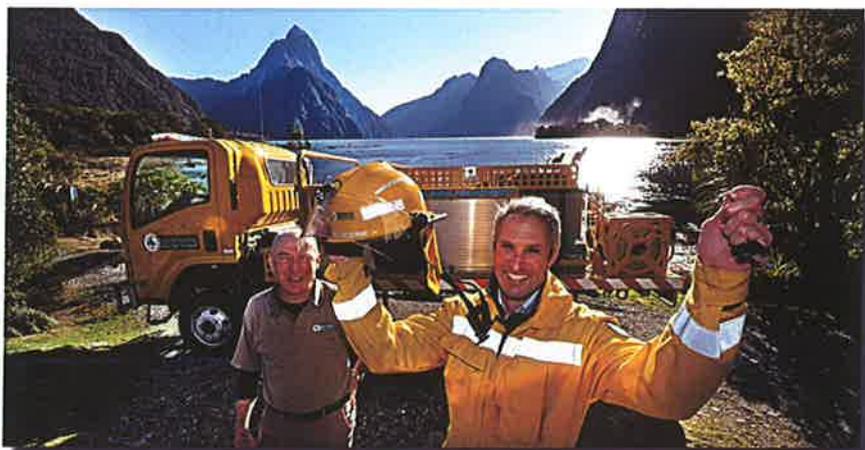


Hedgehope Volunteer Rural Fire Force

What a Christmas present! and a great way to start the summer season. Hedgehope received the 2002 Sterling capable for carrying 7000L of water and was put to the test over summer.

Milford Sound Emergency Response Team

The new appliance is a 2012 Isuzu four wheel drive, medium size truck capable of carrying 1800 litres of water, various types of equipment and a team of three people, ideal for the rugged terrain and winding roads in the area.



Garston Volunteer Rural Fire Force

After Mike Grant had finished thrashing his 2005 Mitsubishi Triton, it got a make over and retired to the quieter life of being a smoke chaser for Garston.

Evening Talks

Southern Rural Fire has created a series of evening talks to on local and international fire fighting experiences. These talks are open to the public so bring your partners, families and friends along!

Date	Location	Talk
Tuesday 26 June 2012 7-9pm	Lumsden Hotel 6 Diana St Lumsden	Trevor Huggins and Keri Tuna will talk about their recent experience of being part of a team deployed to Australia to participate in a prescribed burning programme.
Monday 23 July 7-9pm	Lumsden Hotel 6 Diana St Lumsden	Warren Heslip and Gilly Adams talk about their experience fighting fires in Australia in 2009.
Monday 20 August 7-9pm	Lumsden Hotel 6 Diana St Lumsden	In 2011 Mike Grant visited South African to learn and experience how they are deal with the high risk and high impact of fires in poor rural communities. Mike will share what he learnt.
Wednesday 26 September 5-8pm	Winton Golf Club Winton Substation Rd Winton	Fire Fighters Awards night. Come along, have a drink and a laugh!

How does Rural Fire Work? What does that mean for my organisation?

Everyone associated with rural fire has a legal responsibility under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977. Rural Fire is managed in two different ways across New Zealand.

Independent Fire Authorities

Each industry which has a responsibility for fire under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 (E.g. Forestry companies, councils and Department of Conservation)

Each industry (organisation) must provide adequate staffing, equipment and training to ensure they can protect their designated area from fire.

This means each industry is responsible for:

Enlarged Fire Authorities

A Rural Fire Authority is governed by a committee of representatives from industries who have a responsibility for fire under the Forest and Rural Fires Act.

All resources are pooled and activities co-ordinated from a central body to allow for the best use of resources.

This means the enlarged fire authority manages the following on behalf of industries:

Duties of any Fire Authority

Reduction

1. Imposing restricted seasons and fire bans and monitor them
2. Manage fire permits
3. Engage community about fire

Readiness

1. Train fire fighters to national standards
2. Maintain and replace equipment
3. Monitor and advise the public of fire dangers

Response

4. Respond to fire incidents

Recovery

1. Assist communities to recover from fire
2. Recover costs associated with fire

Administration

1. Keep statistics of fire events
2. Comply with the National Rural Fire Authority reporting requirements and national standards



So what does that mean for me?

The industry you are associated with has a legal responsibility for rural fire. Under the Centralised Southern Rural Fire Authority system all resources and training is pooled including fire fighters. If you're wondering how your organisation fits it here is a breakdown:

	Type of fire fighters	Organisations
Agency fire fighters	Provide Fire Fighters direct from the business pool of staff.	Rayonier, Ernslaw One, DOC, ICC Parks, Southwood Export
	If the business is unable to provide staff direct it can agree to provide fire fighters in one of its service contracts. OR Contractors can contract their fire fighting services under agreement to SRFA.	Downer, Southroads, Fulton Hogan, Branchout, Heslip Forest Contracting
Volunteers	Volunteer Fire Fighters who do it for their community	Athol, Beaumont, Blackmount, Drummond, Garston, Hedgehope, Milford Sound Waikawa

Quiz

1. In the details of fires between Dec and Feb how many times was the Kingston Flyer grass fires mentioned?
2. If I had an FFMC of 86, a DMC of 25 and a DC of 120 what would that tell me?
3. Does Southland operate as an independent or enlarged fire authority?
4. What are the tree components of a vegetation fire environment relationship and their significance?
5. What are three indicators that will increase fire intensity?

(Check out our website for the answers: <http://www.southernruralfire.org.nz/board-and-fire-fighters/>)

Name our newsletter competition

Naming a newsletter is serious business! This is your chance to get creative - get your newsletter name in print and win a prize.

Email your suggestions to Sally Chesterfield: sally.chesterfield@southernruralfire.org.nz