



SAFETY ALERT

With our fire season well and truly under way - here's some essential lessons from recent incidents across South Canterbury, Otago and Southland:

1. WE NEED TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE:

Make sure you use K-codes and if you are attending a larger incident always check in to the ICP. Do not self-deploy – everyone's safety depends on it.

2. YOU NEED TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE:

It's common for our call-outs to be at night and to have uncertainty as to the location of the fire or how to access it. Always consider the condition of the road and whether you have any alternative escape route. Do not enter commercial forests unless you have an escort or have discussed previously with your RFO. You may need to confirm you have radio communication.

3. SCENE ASSESSMENT IS ESSENTIAL:

In these conditions fire behaviour is likely to be extreme and you need to adjust your initial attack to suit the conditions. Use lookouts and plan escape routes. Do not underestimate fire rate of spread or the ability of a fire to change direction or jump.

4. YOUR RURAL FIRE EQUIPMENT IS NOT INVINCIBLE:

Rural fire equipment is used in a number of challenging conditions but if damaged it can cause major gaps in our readiness and response. This is particularly true for fleet. Please be careful driving - look after yourselves and your equipment.

