

# Fire Danger Forecast

**Forecast:** Saturday 16 – Wednesday 20 March 2019

**Issued:** Friday 15 March 2019



## Wildfire season message

Much needed rain has fallen across the country last week and is forecast to continue this weekend in the South Island, and into next week for the North Island. As a result, fire dangers continue to ease around the country. This weekend, cool wet conditions keep the fire dangers mostly **Low** to **Moderate**. No Very High or Extreme fire dangers are forecast into the following week either.

There are still many locations with dry soils, dry heavy and medium vegetation and cured grass fuels, that can dry out quickly after a short period without rain, elevating the fire danger. Significant and prolonged rainfall is required to reduce this risk. These locations include: Northland, Auckland, northern and central Waikato, central and coastal Bay of Plenty, South Taranaki, central and southern Manawatu-Wanganui, and northern Hawkes Bay in the North Island; and in the Buller District, Tasman, Nelson, western Marlborough, Canterbury, southern Otago, and central Southland in the South Island.

Prohibited fire seasons (Total Fire Bans) are still in place in many areas, with Restricted in others. So please visit [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz) and take extra care with any activity that could create a spark and cause a fire.

## Weekend (Saturday - Sunday):

### North Island:

| Fire Danger | Location |
|-------------|----------|
| Very High   | Nil      |
| Extreme     | Nil      |

#### Fire danger comments:

This weekend, grass and forest fire dangers are expected to remain **Low** to **Moderate** across the North Island, due to further forecast rain.

For more information on the fire season status (including fire bans or restrictions) in your area, visit [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz)

### South Island:

| Fire Danger | Location |
|-------------|----------|
| Very High   | Nil      |
| Extreme     | Nil      |

#### Fire danger comments:


This weekend, **Low** to **Moderate** grass and forest fire danger are predicted across the South Island, with widespread rain moving across much of the island.

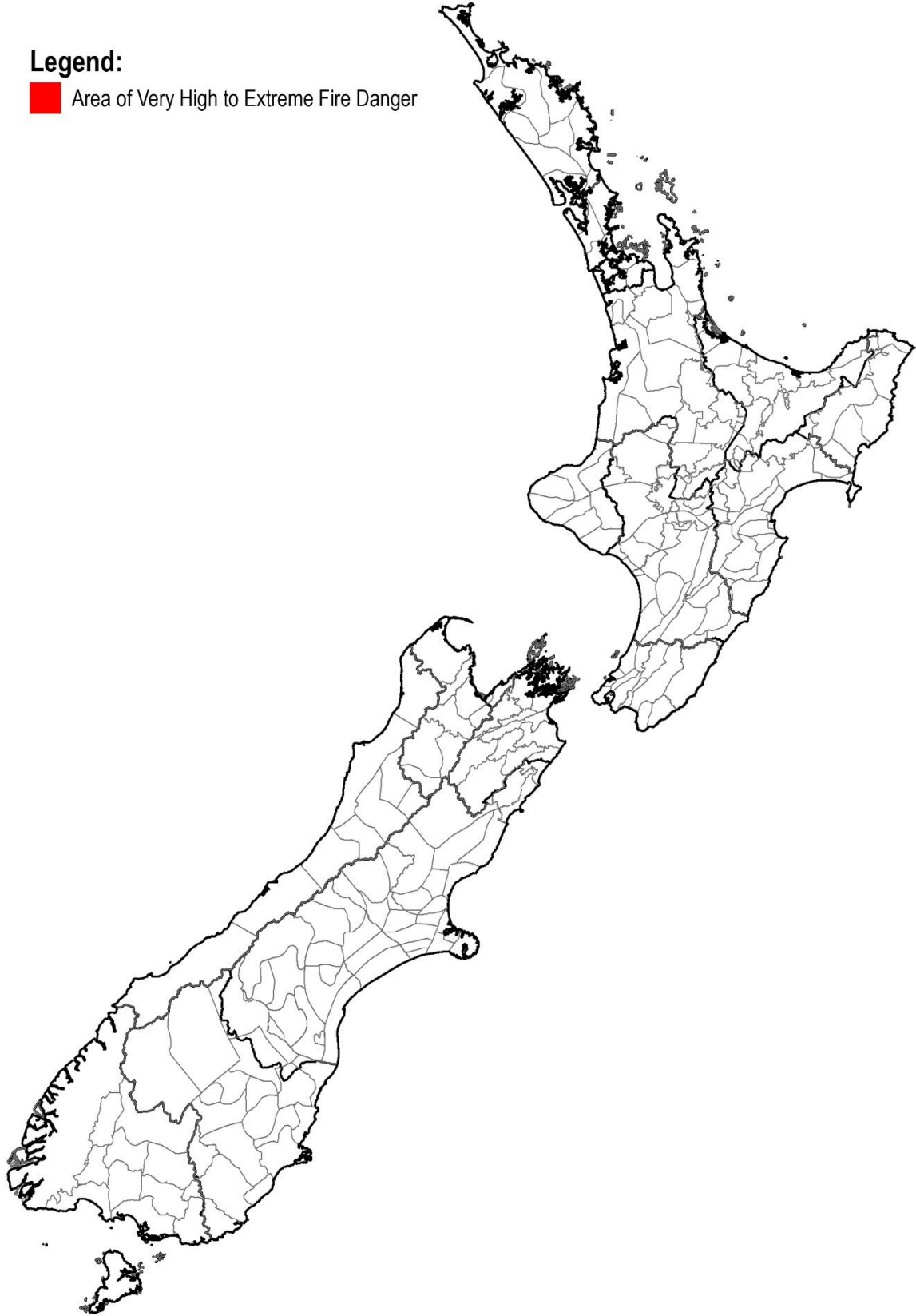
Stay up-to-date with the fire danger in your area: <https://fireweather.niwa.co.nz/>

## Weekend (Saturday - Sunday):

Note: Based on a 2-day forecast issued: 15 March at 0514 (NZLAM model)

### Legend:

 Area of Very High to Extreme Fire Danger



## Week (Monday - Wednesday):

### North Island:

| Fire Danger | Location |
|-------------|----------|
| Very High   | Nil      |
| Extreme     | Nil      |

#### Fire danger comments:

Into next week, the forecast rain continues to keep fire danger levels at **Low to Moderate** across much of the North Island.

Warm temperatures, moderate winds and highly cured grasslands are expected to elevate the grass fire dangers to **High** for:

- Manawatu on Tuesday;
- Auckland on Wednesday.

For updates and further information on the status of fire danger ratings, visit: <https://fireweather.niwa.co.nz/>

### South Island:

| Fire Danger | Location |
|-------------|----------|
| Very High   | Nil      |
| Extreme     | Nil      |

#### Fire danger comments:


Into next week, the recent rain combined with forecast cooler temperatures (below 20s), high humidity (over 70%), and light to moderate winds keep the fire danger **Low to Moderate** across much of the South.

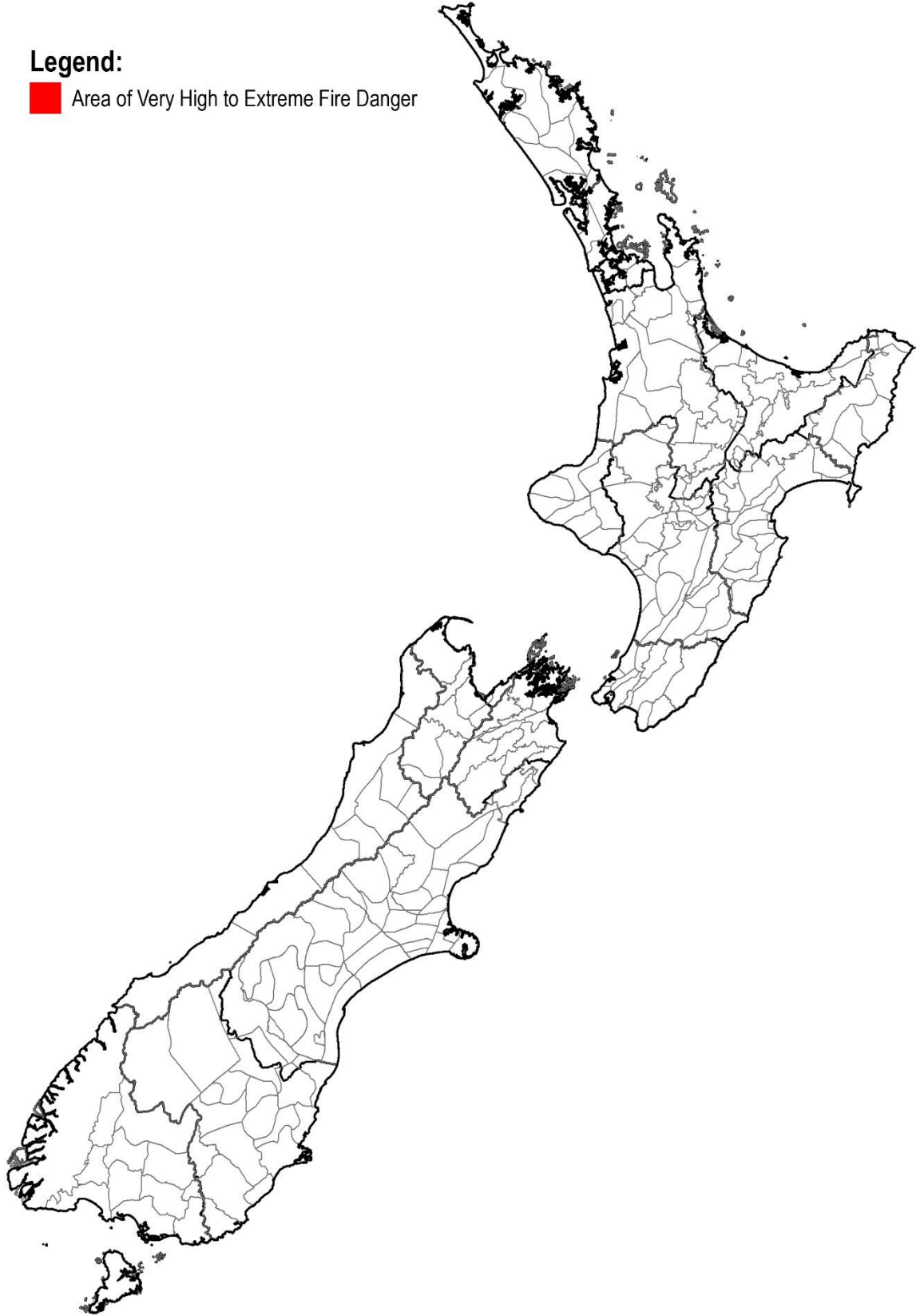
For those who are planning to light a fire in the outdoors, you will need to check out the fire season status: "Before you light, check it's alright" on [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz)

## Week (Monday to Wednesday):

Note: Based on a 6-day forecast issued 14 March at 1729 (GLOBALUM model)

### Legend:

 Area of Very High to Extreme Fire Danger



## Key Notes/Messages:

With elevated fire dangers, be very careful with any activities you might undertake outside that could spark a fire. If you see an unattended fire, immediately call 111. Check whether a total fire ban is in place for your area at: [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz)

Are you aware of the risks to your home from a wildfire? There is a lot you can do to protect your home or property from the threat of a wildfire. Head to: <https://fireandemergency.nz/at-home/protect-your-home-from-outdoor-fires/> for further information.

### What are the different *fire danger* levels and what do they mean?

We use 5 different colour-coded levels to help the public understand fire potential. The fire danger rating is calculated hourly for fire managers to assess the potential for a fire starting, how aggressively it would spread and how long it might burn for.

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| LOW       | <p><b>Low fire danger</b> means conditions are difficult for new fires to start and usually require an intense heat source. Any fire starts are typically limited to smouldering, slow spreading and low intensity. These fires are likely to be self-extinguishing and new ignitions unlikely. Control of these fires is generally easy. Outdoor burning can be executed with reasonable safety.</p>  |
| MODERATE  | <p><b>Moderate fire danger</b> conditions generally result in non-serious fires for which control is relatively easy. Any fire starts will typically be creeping or gentle surface fires. Fires are easily contained by ground crews with backpack pumps and hand tools.</p> <p>Outdoor burning can be done with caution; consider lighting-up in the early morning or late evening hours.</p>   |
| HIGH      | <p><b>High fire danger</b> conditions result in fires starting easily. Fires can become serious and difficult to control unless they are put out while they are still small. Expect moderate to vigorous surface fires with intermittent crown involvement. Any fires that do start will be challenging for ground crews to handle, requiring water under pressure. Heavy equipment (bulldozers, tanker trucks, aircraft) is also often required to contain fires.</p> <p>Take care to avoid activities that could spark a wildfire, and consider postponing planned burns until weather conditions (especially wind strength) are more favourable.</p>  |
| VERY HIGH | <p><b>Very High fire danger</b> conditions result in fires starting very easily. Fires will spread rapidly and increase in intensity, right from ignition. These fires can be difficult to control and will often become much larger and longer-lasting. Fires will be challenging for suppression and mop-up likely prolonged. Generally, these conditions are beyond the ability of ground crews, and air attack with chemical suppressants or retardant is required to effectively attack the fire's head.</p> <p>Outdoor fires are not recommended, and fire restrictions may be in effect. Check previous burn areas for flare-ups and take extra care to avoid any activities that could spark a wildfire.</p> |
| EXTREME   | <p><b>Extreme fire danger</b> conditions mean that the fire risk is very serious. Fires under these conditions are very difficult to fight and may become very dangerous and often last for several days. New fires will start easily, spread rapidly, and burn very intensely. Any fires that start are potentially uncontrollable. Suppression actions are limited to flanks, with only indirect actions possible against the fire's head.</p> <p>Please do not light fires in areas with Extreme fire danger. Fire restrictions or prohibitions are usually in effect at this level. Check previous burn areas for flare-ups and take extra care to avoid any activities that could spark a wildfire.</p>         |

In a **Restricted fire season**, a permit is required to light a fire in the open air. Fire dangers are usually high, and conditions are dry. You will need to contact Fire and Emergency to arrange for a Fire Permit.

A **Prohibited fire season**, or **Total Fire Ban**, means no fires in the outdoors are allowed, and extra care needs to be taken to avoid any activities that could spark a wildfire, as conditions are considered extremely dry and if a fire starts it is likely to be uncontrollable.

#### Disclaimer:

The above information is not intended to be a substitute for specific specialist advice on fire risk or seasonal restrictions. It has been provided in good faith and on the basis that every endeavour has been made to exercise reasonable care, skill and judgment in providing such information. Neither Scion, nor any of its employees, accepts any responsibility or liability in respect of any information or opinions provided.