

Fire Danger Forecast

Forecast: Friday 8th – Wednesday 13th February

Issued: Friday 8 February 2019



Wildfire season message

The underlying dry conditions (soils & medium to heavy vegetation) are currently advanced for: Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, coastal South Taranaki & Whanganui/Manawatu, Central Hawkes Bay and the Wairarapa. In the South Island, the underlying conditions are also serious for: Nelson, Tasman, Marlborough, Canterbury (North, Mid & South), Mackenzie, Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago.

Weekend (Saturday - Sunday):

North Island:

Fire Danger	Location
Very High	Auckland, Waikato, Wairarapa, Chathams
Extreme	Nil

Fire danger comments:

This weekend, the mixture of dry conditions, warm temperatures and wind will elevate the fire danger:

On Saturday:

- **High to Very High** forest fire danger for: Auckland, Waikato and Wairarapa regions, due to the underlying dryness and moderate winds (20 km/h).
- **High** forest fire danger for: Tauranga, Hastings and Wellington, due to the underlying dry conditions and warm temperatures (mid 20s).

On Sunday:

- **High to Very High** fire danger for: parts of Waikato, Auckland and the Wairarapa regions, due to warm temperatures (mid 20s) and windy conditions (30 km/h).
- **High to Very High** forest fire danger for the Chathams, due to the underlying dryness and windy conditions (30 km/h).
- **High** forest fire danger for parts of the Central North Island and Bay of Plenty.

South Island:

Fire Danger	Location
Very High	Marlborough, Canterbury (North, Central & South), Central Otago
Extreme	Marlborough, Canterbury (North & Central), Central Otago

Fire danger comments:

There is an elevated fire risk this weekend for much of the South Island's east coast, due to the warm, dry and windy conditions. A chance of light rain, humid conditions and light winds offers a brief respite for Nelson this weekend, potentially briefly reducing the fire danger to **Moderate/High**.

On Saturday, warm temperatures (mid to high 20s) and low humidity will elevate the fire danger to:

- **Very High** grass fire danger for Marlborough (due to high grass curing levels).
- **Very High to Extreme** forest fire danger for: Marlborough and Canterbury (North & Central).
- **High to Very High** forest fire danger for: Inland Canterbury (including Ashburton district) & Central Otago.
- **High** forest fire danger for: Nelson, South Canterbury, Queenstown Lakes and parts of Southland.

On Sunday, hot temperatures (high 20s), low humidity and windy conditions will elevate the fire danger to:

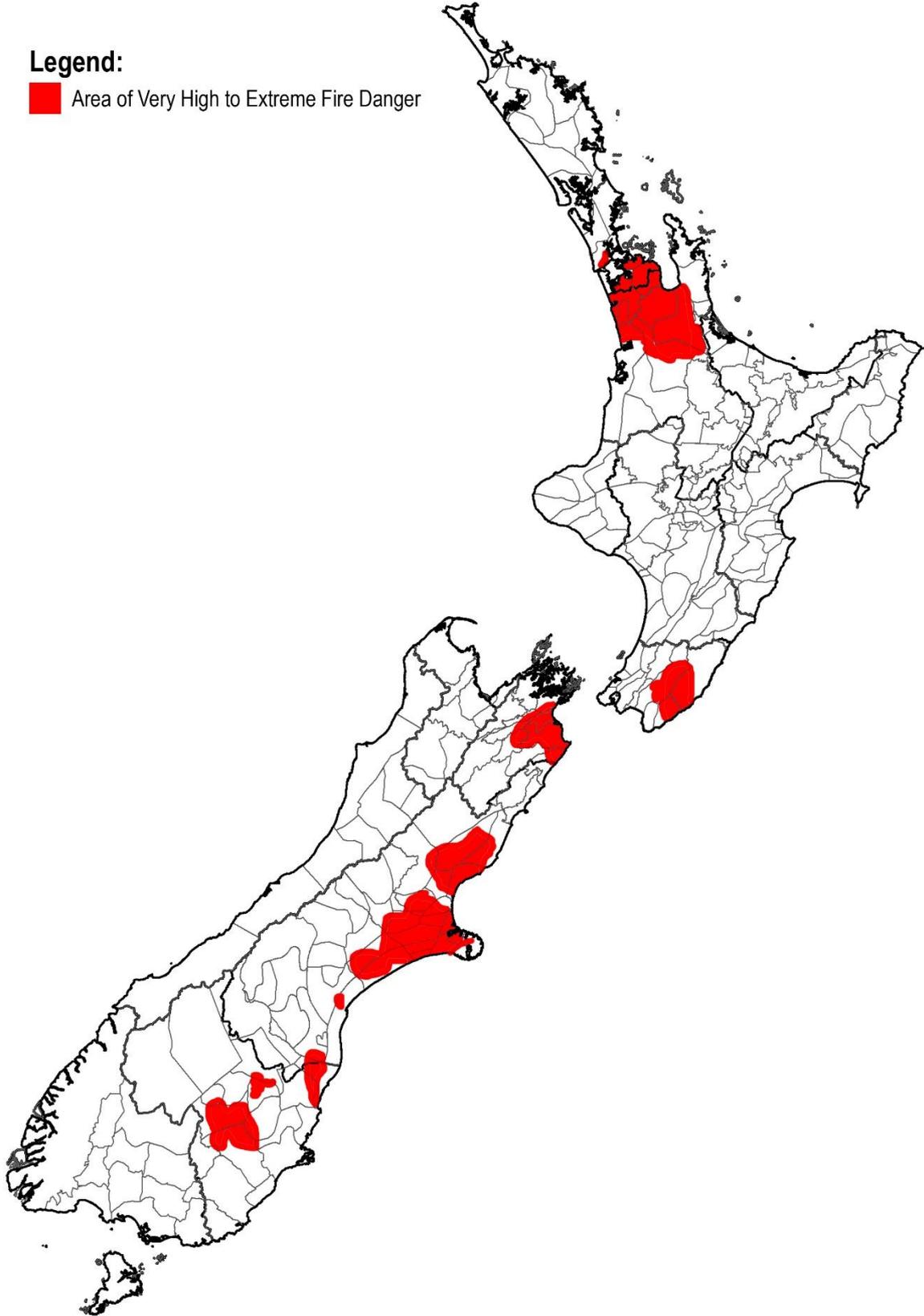
- **High to Very High** grass fire danger for North and Central Canterbury.
- **Very High to Extreme** forest fire danger for: Marlborough, Canterbury (North & Central), and parts of Central Otago.
- **High to Very High** forest fire danger for: South Canterbury (Timaru), and parts of Southland.
- **Moderate to High** forest fire danger for Nelson, due to the low humidity and light winds.

Weekend (Saturday - Sunday):

Note: Based on a 2-day forecast issued: 8 February at 0517 (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:

Next week, forecast warm temperatures (mid 20s) and the underlying dry conditions will elevate the fire danger for some locations. Forecasted light rain will keep the fire danger **Low** to **Moderate** for much of the North Island. The exceptions being:

On Monday:

- **High** forest fire danger for parts of Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and the Wairarapa, due to warm temperatures (mid 20s).

On Tuesday, the chance of light rain should reduce the fire dangers across the North Island. However, due to the underlying dry conditions, some parts will remain in **Moderate** to **High** forest fire danger, including:

- Parts of: Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Central North Island (Taupo, Tokoroa), coastal Bay of Plenty, coastal Whanganui/Manawatu, and Palmerston North, with **High** forest fire danger due to warm temperatures (mid 20s) and windy conditions.

On Wednesday, forecast light rain should keep the fire danger **Low** to **Moderate** across the North Island.

South Island:

Fire Danger	Location
Very High	Marlborough, Canterbury (North, Central & South), Otago
Extreme	Marlborough, Otago

Fire danger comments:

Next week, an elevated fire risk remains for many South Island eastern locations due to warm, dry conditions.

On Monday, warm temperatures (mid 20s) and the underlying dryness elevate the fire dangers to:

- **Moderate** to **High** forest fire danger for Nelson.
- **High** to **Extreme** forest fire danger in Marlborough.
- **High** forest fire danger in North Canterbury.
- **High** to **Very High** forest fire danger for: Central and South Canterbury, and Otago.

On Tuesday, a chance of light rain for some areas reduces the fire danger, but an elevated risk remains for:

- **High** forest fire danger for Nelson.
- **High** to **Very High** forest fire danger in Marlborough.
- **Moderate** to **High** forest fire danger in Canterbury (North, Central & South).
- **High** to **Very High** forest fire danger in Otago (Central, Oamaru, Dunedin & Clutha).

On Wednesday, an ongoing chance of light rain reduces the fire danger for some, but elevated risk remains for:

- **High** forest fire danger in: Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury and Southland.
- **High** to **Extreme** forest fire danger for Otago.

Wildfire safety message

With elevated fire dangers, be mindful of activities you might undertake outside that could spark a fire. If you see an unattended fire, immediately call 111.

Are you aware of the risks to your home from a wildfire? Stay up-to-date with the fire danger in your patch at: <https://fireweather.niwa.co.nz/>

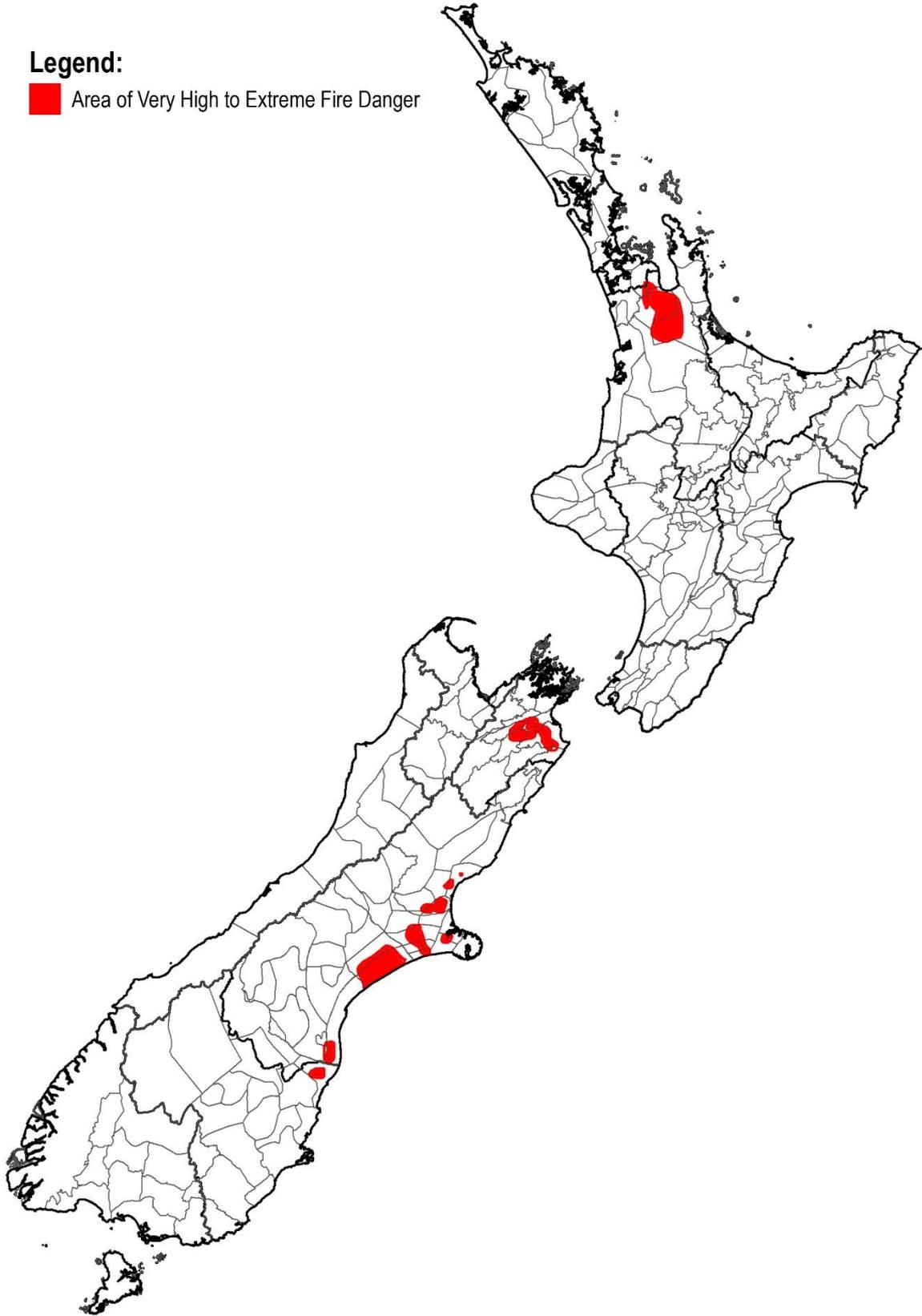
There is a lot you can do to protect your home or property from the threat of a wildfire. Head to: <https://fireandemergency.nz/at-home/protect-your-home-from-outdoor-fires/> for further information.

Week (Monday to Wednesday):

Note: Based on a 6-day forecast issued 7 February at 1724 (GLOBALUM model)

Legend:

 Area of Very High to Extreme Fire Danger



Key Notes/Messages:

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

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>Low fire danger 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>Moderate fire danger 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>High fire danger 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>Very High fire danger 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>Extreme fire danger 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>
<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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	

Disclaimer:

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