



RURAL FIRE PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2014

Prepared By:

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Document Control

This page belongs at the front of the Fire Plan and is to be used to track reviews and updates.

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Amendment/Review List

Amendment Number	Date	Detail	Amended By
01	July 2007	2006 Census Figures inserted into Plan	PRFO
02	August 2007	Plan Reviewed in Accordance with Regulation 40 (1) & (2) of the Forest & Rural Fire Regulations 2005	PRFO
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05	September 2012	All sections of the plan Reviewed in Accordance with Regulation 40 (1) & (2) of the Forest & Rural Fire Regulations 2005	PRFO

06	September 2014	All sections of the plan Reviewed in Accordance with Regulation 40 (1) & (2) of the Forest & Rural Fire Regulations 2005	PRFO
07			
08			

CERTIFICATION

The Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority, in accordance with Section 12(1) of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, and Regulation 39 of the Forest and Rural Fire Regulations 2005 approved this Fire Plan on Tuesday 9th September 2014

Donald Scott
PRINCIPAL RURAL FIRE OFFICER
Wairoa Rural Fire Authority

Fergus Power
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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This Fire Plan is also available for viewing on Council's website: www.wairoadc.govt.nz

Foreword

The Wairoa District is a rural based region covering some 405,000 hectares of primarily hilly country centred on the town of Wairoa in Northern Hawke's Bay. The District is bounded in the east by the Pacific Ocean, in the west by the Huiarau Range, in the south by the Waikare River and in the north by the Wharerata Hills.

The population of the entire district is 8050 (2013 Census) with some 4200 concentrated in Wairoa. Being predominantly hilly the rest of the population is distributed sparsely throughout the district with a number of small settlements acting as community focal points. These include Frasertown, Mahia, Nuhaka, Tuai, Raupunga and Kotemaori.

The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority has established three Volunteer Rural Fire Forces, located at Tuai, Ruakituri, and Mahia. These volunteer rural fire forces are well trained and resourced to enable them to effectively respond and manage various fire incidents that may occur anywhere within the district.

The purpose of this Fire Plan is to define the Wairoa District Rural Fire Authority's planning requirements to meet the obligations detailed in the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 and the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005 with respect to prevention, detection, control, suppression, and restriction of fire.

The fire season officially begins within Wairoa District on **1 October**, and finishes on **30 April**, in the following year. For the Wairoa District an open fire season will apply where no permit is required to light a fire in the open within the district from the 1st July through to the 30th June of the following year.

Within that year the only variation will be where a:

- *Restricted fire season is imposed, when a fire permit will be required to light a fire in the open within the district;*
- *Prohibited fire season is imposed, when NO-FIRES are allowed at all in the open within the district.*

Under the provisions of the Forest & Rural Fires Act 1977 the Principal Rural Fire Officer may extend or reduce the period of open fire season or may declare a restricted or prohibited fire season.

Donald Scott
PRINCIPAL RURAL FIRE OFFICER
Wairoa Rural Fire Authority

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Glossary

The Forest & Rural Fires Act defines the following terms and words used in this Fire Plan:

Exotic forest means a forest, woodlot, or plantation comprised principally or entirely of tree species not indigenous to New Zealand:

Fire control, in relation to forest, rural, and other areas of vegetation, means:

- (a) The prevention, detection, control, restriction, suppression, and extinction of fire; and
- (b) The safeguarding of life and property from damage and risk of damage by or in relation to fire; and
- (c) All measures conducive to or intended to further or effect such prevention, detection, control, restriction, suppression, extinction, or safe-guarding;

and "fire control measure" has a corresponding meaning.

Fire Officer' or Rural Fire Officer means a person appointed as a Rural Fire Officer by or pursuant to section 13 of the Forest & Rural Fires Act.

Fire plan means a statement compiled and issued by a Fire Authority defining policy, chain of command, and procedure, in relation to fire control by that Authority:

Fire safety margin means

- (a) in relation to a State area (other than land administered by the Minister of Conservation pursuant to section 9A of the Foreshore and Seabed Endowment Revesting Act 1991), means the land outside the State area that is within 1 km of the boundary of the State area, excluding any land:
 - (i) specified in a Gazette notice given under section 11B:
 - (ii) in a fire district within the meaning of the Fire Service Act 1975
 - (iii) in a rural fire district; and
 - (b) in relation to a forest area, means the land outside the forest area but within such a distance (not exceeding 1 km) from the boundary of the forest area as is approved by the Fire Authority for the area; but
- I does not include any land being the whole or part of a defence area within the meaning of the Defence Act 1990]

Firebreak means a natural or artificial physical barrier against the spread of fire from or into any area of continuous flammable material.

National Rural Fire Authority means the National Rural Fire Authority constituted under section 14A(1) of the Fire Service Act 1975.

Open season, or open fire season', means a period of time, whether of fixed or indefinite duration, during which period the lighting of fires in the open air in that area or district is neither prohibited nor restricted under section 22 of the Forest & Rural Fires Act.

Permit, in relation to the lighting of fires in the open air, means a fire control measure in accordance with which a person may light such fires without committing an offence

against section 23(1) of this Act; and includes a special permit issued pursuant to section 24 of the Forest & Rural Fires Act:

Principal Fire Officer means:

- (a) In relation to any State area for which a Principal Rural Fire Officer is appointed by the Minister of Conservation or any other district for which a Principal Rural Fire Officer is appointed by the Fire Authority, means that officer or, where he is absent or unavailable or unable to act, the person acting as Principal Fire Officer pursuant to the Fire Plan for that area or district.
- (b) In relation to any district (other than a State area) for which there is only one Fire Officer, means that officer or, where he is absent or unavailable or unable to act, the person acting as Principal Fire Officer pursuant to the Fire Plan for that district.
- l In relation to any State area for which no Principal Rural Fire Officer has been appointed by the Minister [of Conservation], means any [Rural Fire Officer appointed under section 13(3) of this Act and any warranted officer appointed under section 59(1) of the Conservation Act 1987.

Prohibited season or **prohibited fire season** means a period of time, whether of fixed or indefinite duration, specified pursuant to this Act, during which period the lighting of fires in the open air is prohibited under the Forest & Rural Fires Act:

Restricted season or **Restricted fire season** means a period of time, whether of fixed or indefinite duration, specified pursuant to this Act, during which period permits or authorities are required by this Act for the lighting of fires in the open air.

Executive Summary

The Wairoa District Council maintains a Long Term Council Community Plan that sets out the Wairoa District Council priorities over the medium to long term. As part of this plan a number of community outcomes relating to environmental wellbeing have been identified, these are: ***Safe and Secure Communities, A Lifetime of Good Health and Wellbeing, and, An Environment that is Appreciated, Protected and Sustained for Future Generations.*** Council recognises that the development, approval, and implementation of a Rural Fire Plan assists in meeting these identified outcomes.

The 2005 Forest and Rural Fires Regulations specify the requirements of Rural Fire Plans and this Plan is written in accordance with those regulations. As a local authority however, the Wairoa District Council also has a responsibility to meet legislative requirements of the Local Government Act 2002. Section 10 of the Local Government Act sets out the purposes of Local Government, which are;

- *To enable democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities, and*
- *To promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well being of communities, in the present and for the future.*

Section 14 of the Local Government Act sets out the principles of local government which include:

- *The diversity of the community, and the community's interests, within its district or region.*
- *The social, economic, and cultural well being of people and communities.*
- *The need to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment.*
- *The reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.*

Therefore first and foremost we believe the delivery of Rural Fire Management in Wairoa District shall be provided:

- *In accordance with the desires of our community subject to affordability.*
- *In accordance with related provisions of the Forest and Rural Fires Amendment Act 2005, the Fire Service Amendment Act 2005 and, the Forest and Rural Fire Regulations 2005.*
- *In a manner that promotes cooperation with our neighbours and the emergency services.*

This Rural Fire Plan sets out the policies and procedures that the Council has developed to enable it to effectively and efficiently undertake its statutory rural fire obligations, roles, and responsibilities. The Fire Plan is supported by a number of annexes that provide further details in terms of the operational aspects of those activities.

This Plan is structured around the four components of emergency management being:

- Reduction
- Readiness
- Response, and
- Recovery

The first section of this Plan sets the scene within which rural fire operations are undertaken in the Wairoa Rural Fire District.

The Reduction section deals with how the risk of fire is managed and how public education is undertaken.

Maps of the area are provided in the Readiness section. It also specifies the responsibilities of the Rural Fire Authority and covers the policies and procedures relating to ensuring that people are trained, and have sufficient resources to undertake fire-fighting activities.

The Response section covers the aspects required to fight and put out rural fires. Communications and fire ground activities are dealt with.

The Recovery section deals with how the Rural Fire Authority investigates fires, and reviews its operations following any incident.

The last section of the Fire Plan, deals with administrative matters such as financial matters, Plan reviews, and arrangements between other Rural Fire Districts.

Part One – Overview

1 Introduction

This section of the Rural Fire Plan sets the scene for rural fire operations of Wairoa District Council. It provides a general description of the rural fire area, and provides a general comment on the various statutory frameworks within which Wairoa District Council is required to operate.

1.1 Structure of this Plan

This Fire Plan is prepared to meet the obligations set out in Regulations 39 to 46 of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005. Those regulations specify in detail the required structure and content of Rural Fire Plans. This Fire Plan is therefore organised into six parts.

- Part One – Provides the introduction to the Rural Fire Plan and provides the context within which Wairoa District Council undertakes rural fire operations.
- Part Two - Deals with matters of Reduction, in accordance with the specified requirements of the 2005 Regulations
- Part Three - Deals with matters of Readiness, in accordance with the specified requirements of the 2005 Regulations.
- Part Four - Deals with matters of Response, in accordance with the specified requirements of the 2005 Regulations.
- Part Five - Deals with matters of Recovery, in accordance with the specified requirements of the 2005 Regulations.
- Part Six – Deals with Administrative matters.

Further detail is contained in a number of Annexes to this Fire Plan.

Annex One is the checklist of the specific requirements for what this Fire Plan must contain under the headings of reduction, readiness, response, and recovery. Reference to the various Regulations is made throughout this Fire Plan, indicating how it complies with the requirements.

Council has delegated authority to the Principal Rural Fire Officer to make amendments to the details contained in the annexes.

1.2 Aim and Goals

The aim of this Fire Plan is to outline the processes and procedures for the management of rural fire within the Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority's district.

The goal of the Wairoa Rural Fire Authority is:

To safeguard life, property, and the environment by the prevention, detection, control, restriction, suppression and extinction of fire in forest and rural areas within the Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority boundaries.

1.3 General Description of Rural Fire Area

The Wairoa District is located in northern Hawke's Bay and extends north from the Waikare River to its boundary with Gisborne District beyond Mahia Peninsula, and contains the Mohaka Catchment, Lake Waikaremoana and much of the Te Urewera National Park.

The District has a total area of 4,118 square kilometres, including 130 kilometres of coastline. It lies within the Hawke's Bay Region and is bordered by Taupo District in the west, Whakatane District to the northwest, Gisborne District to the north, and Hastings District to the south.

The Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority protects an area of land consisting of 203122 hectares within the Wairoa District. This area excludes those areas of land within the district boundaries under the jurisdiction of the NZ Fire Service, Bay Forests Rural Fire District, Eastland Rural Fire District and the Department of Conservation.

Areas of jurisdiction (including neighbouring Rural Fire Force boundaries), Volunteer Rural Fire Force station locations and response areas are shown on maps in section 3.2 Rural Fire Area.

The topography and geographical location of the district determine both the climatic conditions and the general fire risk. The majority of the region is hill country, merging with mountains in the west and often deeply dissected with gorges. Areas of coastal and river flats give greater variety to the landscape. The Mahia Peninsula is a prominent landform on the coast. The north-western part of the district includes Lake Waikaremoana, surrounded by Te Urewera National Park.

1.3.1 Population and Main Activities

Within the Rural Fire District, there is a mix of both dense and sparsely populated areas. Most settlements in the District do not have a reticulated water supply, the exceptions being Wairoa Township and Frasertown. The largest, but not all, of the rural communities that are established within the rural fire boundary are:

Community	Population	Dwellings
Wairoa	4242	1746
Mahia	882	753
Nuhaka	288	108
Whakaki	807	345
Ruakituri/Morere	783	309
Raupunga	636	291
Maungataniwha	375	159
Frasertown	297	108
Tuai	324	162

2006 Census

Note: A map of the Wairoa Rural Fire District is provided at 3.2.1 Map of Rural Fire District and other areas for which the authority is responsible.

The economy of the District is based on the rural sector. Approximately 60% of the total land is in productive use, of which some 48% is in pasture. Forestry is a significant industry within the district, and in recent years there has been a substantial increase in plantation forestry, with approximately 15 percent of the land area in forest production.

Recent petroleum exploration has resulted in findings of natural gas in the northern Wairoa area. The discoveries offer potential to distribute natural gas regionally and to link with national networks to provide reticulation to Wairoa environs, and for other forms of energy development.

The District's roading network and State Highway system in particular, is an essential physical resource to the very day functioning of people and communities. Major transport routes dissect the district including State Highways 2 and 38, as well as the East Coast Rail link connecting Gisborne to Wellington.

1.4 Statutory Requirements

Wairoa District Council has a statutory obligation to carry out the functions of a Rural Fire Authority as set out within the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, and the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005. As noted in section 1.1 Structure of this plan this Fire Plan is made in accordance with the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005.

1.4.1 Policies and procedures

In order to meet its statutory obligations the Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority has adopted a number of policies and procedures that are documented within this Rural Fire Plan. In general Wairoa District Council shall:

- a) Maintain a Rural Fire Plan to deal with all matters relating to rural fire emergencies within those areas under its jurisdiction.
- b) Be consistent with, and give full effect to, the statutory requirements of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 and Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005.
- c) Implement fire control measures including:
 - i. The prevention, detection, control, restriction, suppression, and extinction of fire; and
 - ii. The safeguarding of life and property from damage and risk of damage by or in relation to fire; and
 - iii. All measures conducive to or intended to further or effect such prevention, detection, control, restriction, suppression, extinction, or safeguarding.
- d) Maintain liaison with the New Zealand Fire Service, National Rural Fire Authority, Bay Forests Rural Fire District, Department of Conservation, Eastland Rural Fire District, adjacent Rural Fire Authorities, organisations, enterprises and clients, for the co-ordination and use of personnel, material, and services for fire fighting purposes.
- e) Maintain an effective and efficient rural fire fighting force in partnership with local communities at strategic locations throughout the District.
- f) Ensure rural fire fighting staff adhere to safe practices on the fire ground.
- g) Endeavour at all times to operate in a manner that reflects “best industry Practice.”
- h) Facilitate core generic training for all rural fire fighting staff, in conjunction with industry fire training providers, and shall train staff to National standards.
- i) Operate a cost-effective service and shall endeavour to recover fire suppression costs for all fires to reduce the fiscal impact on ratepayers within the District and provide budget on an annual basis for the Wairoa District Council Fire Suppression Fund.

1.4.2 Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977

The Forest and Rural Fires Act establishes Rural Fire Authorities, sets out their duties, powers, and functions, and the powers and functions of Principal Fire Officers or Rural Fire Officers.

Each Rural Fire Authority must promote and carry out fire control measures within its district and in the interests of public safety take appropriate fire control measures, including, in particular:

- (a) The observation of weather and other conditions, and the assessment of fire hazard;
- (b) The giving of warnings of the imminence of fire hazard conditions; and
- l The giving of any information available in relation to fire hazard conditions.

1.4.3 Other Legislative Requirements

Fire Service Act 1975

The Fire Service Act establishes the New Zealand Fire Service and the Fire Service Commission.

As required by the Act, the Fire Service Commission is also the National Rural Fire Authority. The function of the National Rural Fire Authority is to encourage and promote effective fire control measures. (Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 18(2))

Local Government Act 2002

The Local Government Act 2002 specifies the role and function of the Wairoa District Council, as a local authority. The Act specifies how the Council shall operate and how it shall make decisions.

The Act defines the purpose of local government as being:

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future.

The role of a local authority is to

- (a) give effect, in relation to its district or region, to the purpose of local government; and
- (b) perform the duties, and exercise the rights, conferred on it by or under the Act and any other enactment.

The Act also specifies the principles a local authority must abide by in performing its role.

Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

The purpose of the Resource Management Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

The Act defines how controls on the release of substances to air and water are to be managed. Regional Councils functions with respect to the control of air and water discharges are defined, as are the functions of local councils with respect to the control and use of land.

The Act specifies requirements for Regional Policy Statements, and Regional and District Plans.

Other Acts

There are a large number of other Acts that have an impact on the control and management of Wairoa District Council as it carries out its duties and responsibilities to manage and control rural fires, within its district.

Some of the other legislation that affects rural fire operations are:

- The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 2005
- Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992.
- Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002

1.5 Governance and Financial Arrangements

The Council is the Rural Fire Authority for land within the Wairoa District Council boundaries excluding Urban Fire Districts, the Eastland Rural Fire District, Bay Forests and Department of Conservation.

The Principal Rural Fire Officer is responsible to Council for undertaking the majority of the Rural Fire Authority work in relation to its statutory Duties and Obligations and is accountable to Council for doing so.

Council adopted NZ Standard 9202 (Model Standing Orders for Meetings of Local Authorities and Community Boards) at its first meeting on the 22nd October 2013 following the triennial elections.

Part Two – Reduction

This section of the Rural Fire Plan sets out those matters that are required by Regulation 41 of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005.

2 Reduction Section

Wairoa District Council recognises that it has a statutory responsibility for fire prevention and suppression measures within the Wairoa District. This section details the provision of services and arrangements necessary to bring this into effect.

Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority is committed to reducing the incidence and impact of rural fires within its territory. Some activities to achieve this will best be done through a co-ordinated effort with members of the Eastern Region Rural Fire Committee. Wairoa District Council will however, implement independent programmes specific to the needs of Wairoa District as required.

2.1 Reduction Policies and procedures

Wairoa District Council has adopted a number of specific policies and procedures that relate to reducing the risk of rural fires within its district. Some of the more general policies and procedures were noted in section 1.4.1 Policies and Procedures. The specific policies and procedures relating to risk management and fire prevention are outlined in this part of the Fire Plan.

[Refer Regulation 41(1)]

2.2 Fire Hazardscape

The variability in rainfall in the spring to autumn seasons gives rise to mixed rural fire seasons between periods of lush growth and moisture deficits that can lead to drought conditions. A dry spell in extreme cases can last for several months. During periods of general, strong, west to north-west flow over the North Island, the winds across the district lowlands will be warm, dry föhn winds. In extreme cases temperatures may be 27-40°C with a relative humidity of 10-30 percent. The district averages 2,200 hours of sunshine annually. A general description of the rural fire area is provided in section 1.3 General Description of Fire area.

Fire risks arise from: lightning strikes, spontaneous combustion of chemicals or damp harvested crops, the arcing of power lines, carbon soot emissions from vehicle exhausts, chimneys or incinerators, stone strike from mowers or machinery, and the direct ignition of fire caused by the actions or activities of people or animals. As a popular holiday and tourist area, the population in the rural area increases significantly during summer with tourists visiting the countryside and using nature trails, walkways, river and beach areas, and camping sites, etc.

The average annual rainfall for most of the Wairoa District is between 1500 and 2000mm with some areas receiving 2000 – 4000mm (NIWA Website 2005.)

Wairoa district is well serviced by electrical supply lines, the primary source originating from within the district at Waikaremoana. There are several major distribution networks for the on-going delivery of energy supplies to local communities throughout the district. Electricity is received via the National Grid Supply and also passes through the Rural Fire District before being redistributed via the industrial and domestic electricity network. The majority of petroleum products are received and distributed from outside the district via the road highway network that weaves through the Rural Fire District.

2.3 Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategies

The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority will promote and develop risk management strategies appropriate to the fire threat present in the district, ensuring that any implementation is undertaken only after consultation with those with whom the authority has agreements and with parties who may be affected.

In an attempt to reduce the risk from fire hazards, the following strategies shall be considered and, if appropriate, employed to reduce risk:

- Grass growth and vegetation monitoring throughout the district
- Monitoring Fire Weather Indices on a daily basis
- Roadside mowing and grazing
- Requests to land owners to cut long grass
- Keeping Rural Fire Forces informed of changing risk
- Keeping the public informed of increasing fire risk through media
- Imposition of restrictions, prohibitions and red flag days
- Fire breaking
- Fire Investigations
- Informing the public of risk management strategies they can employ, including those strategies outlined above.
- Regular strategy meetings with other fire authorities during periods of increased fire risk.

[Refer Regulation 41(2)(a)]

The following table outlines the various categories of risk for the various areas that volunteer Rural Fire Force have been established to contend with.

Table 1: Categories of Rural Fire Force risk factors

The following data has been prepared to assist the Principal Rural Fire Officer and Duty Officer in identifying the most appropriate resources to respond to an incident within each of Councils 6 Polygons. However, at all times the nearest/quickest fire suppression resource must be identified, alerted and sent to any fire i.e. Rural Fire Force, NZ Fire Service, DoC and Forest Crews.

Polygon 1 – Mangataniwha

Description	Native bush, no practical vehicle access, no people, difficult to suppress, land locked, no internal sources of ignition.				
Land Use / Activity	Wilderness area				
Suppression Ability	Difficult in the extreme due to terrain, fuel types, access and water				
Neighbour	Dept Conservation & Bay Forests Rural Fire District				
Effects & Desires	Advise of fire and monitor				
Initial Response	① Aerial/Monitor - ② Assistance from DOC - ③ Assistance from Bay Forests				
Probability of Fire	Low	Effect	Minimal	Risk	Low

Polygon 2 – Waiau/Patanamu West

Description	Open well developed pasture, low population isolated farmhouses. Farming area with some small areas of young plantations (less than 10%).				
Land Use / Activity	Increasing forestry land use				
Suppression Ability	Moderate to Difficult (terrain/access)				
Neighbour	Dept Conservation & Bay Forests Rural Fire District – Significant risk area in all cases				
Effects & Desires	DoC – Protect DoC area, advise and respond Bay Forests- In their area – put it out. If a threat to their area, respond and advise Eastland In their area – put it out. If a threat to their area, respond and advise				
Response	① NZFS Wairoa - ② Tuai VRFF - ③ Ruakituri VRFF- Backup				
Probability of Fire	Low	Effect	Moderate	Risk	Low – Moderate

Polygon 3 – Mohaka South

Description	Open well developed pasture, low population isolated farmhouses, some small rural villages, intersected by SH 2, PN-Gisborne railway, some areas undeveloped scrub				
Land Use / Activity	Farming area with some small areas undeveloped scrub (less than 10%).				
Suppression Ability	Low to Moderate (terrain/access)				
Neighbour	Dept Conservation & Bay Forests Rural Fire District – Significant risk area in all cases				
Effects & Desires	DoC – Protect DoC area, advise and respond Bay Forests- In their area – put it out. If a threat to their area, respond and advise				
Initial Response	①NZFS Wairoa - ② Assistance From Bay Forests				
Probability of Fire	Medium	Effect	Minimal	Risk	Low – Moderate

Polygon 4 – Cricklewood South

Description	Broken hilly farming country with areas of scrub and reverting scrub, steeper and areas of young plantation (<5%). Low population. SH 2 and rail intersect				
Land Use / Activity	Farming area with some areas undeveloped scrub (less than 25%).				
Suppression Ability	Moderate to Difficult (terrain/access)				
Neighbour	Dept Conservation, Bay Forests & Eastland – Significant risk area in all cases				
Effects & Desires	DoC – Protect DoC area, advise and respond Bay Forests – In their area – put it out. If a threat to their area, respond and advise Eastland – In their area – put it out. If a threat to their area, respond and advise				
Initial Response	① NZFS Wairoa - ② Assistance From Bay Forests -				
Probability of Fire	Medium	Effect	Minimal	Risk	Low – Moderate

Polygon 5 – Ruakituri/Marumaru

Description	Broken hilly farming country with areas of scrub and reverting scrub, steeper and areas of young plantation (<5%). Low population. SH 2 and rail intersect				
Land Use / Activity	Farming area with some areas undeveloped scrub.				
Suppression Ability	Moderate to Difficult (terrain/access)				
Neighbour	Dept Conservation & Eastland – Significant risk area in all cases				
Effects & Desires	DoC – Protect DoC area Advise and respond Eastland – In their area – put it out. If a threat to their area, respond and advise				
Initial Response	① NZFS Wairoa - ② Ruakituri VRFF (North) - ③ Tuai VRFF (South)				
Probability of Fire	Medium	Effect	Medium	Risk	Moderate

Polygon 6 – Coastal Mahia

Description	Broken hilly farming country with areas of scrub and reverting scrub, steeper and areas of young plantation (<5%). Low population. SH 2 and rail intersect				
Description	Coastal area predominately farming, significant population areas, some scrub and young plantations (<10%)				
Land Use / Activity	Rail, road, (increasing) recreation area,				
Suppression Ability	Easy to Moderate (terrain/access)				
Neighbour	Dept Conservation & Eastland – Significant risk area in all cases				
Effects & Desires	DoC – Protect DoC area, advise and respond Eastland – In their area – put it out. If a threat to their area, respond and advise				
Initial Response	① NZFS Nuhaka - ② Mahia VRFF				
Probability of Fire	Medium – High	Effect	Medium	Risk	Moderate – High

2.3.1 Wildfire Threat Analysis

A wildfire threat analysis has been completed by the Department of Conservation for all lands within the Wairoa District Rural Fire Authority Area.

2.3.2 Building Risk Register

The Wairoa District Council Fire authority has completed a register of hazardous buildings in its jurisdiction and forwarded it to the New Zealand Fire Service. The register shall be reviewed and updated on an annual basis and the results forwarded to the New Zealand Fire Service. The Fire Authority shall upon receipt of the updated risk plans keep them available for use in the event of an incident.

2.4 Fire Prevention Measures

The Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority is committed to promoting and developing fire prevention measures in its fire bylaws and in partnership with the NZ Fire Service and National Rural Fire Authority to reduce the incidence and impact of rural fires in the Wairoa District. [Refer Regulation 41(2)(b)]

2.4.1 Fire danger management

Wildfires can occur throughout the year and as such, a state of readiness is maintained for 365 days. Increased monitoring and assessment occurs as the fire danger intensifies.

Council recognises this fact by monitoring the risk of outbreaks of fire on a daily basis throughout the year by recording, plotting, and analysing data from:

- Remote Automatic Weather Stations;
- Daily Fire Weather Indices from National Rural Fire Authority;
- Known fire hazards and previous fire history;
- Local Fuel Loading on the ground;
- Local climatic conditions;
- Seasonal changes;
- Reconnaissance and intelligence from rural communities; and
- Physical checks of rural areas by qualified Rural Fire Officers.

This information assists rural fire management staff to ascertain local fuel loads, risk of outbreaks, ease of ignition, likely spread rates, and potential fire behaviour.

2.4.2 Mass crowd events

Council recognises that with mass crowd events, such as outdoor concerts and fireworks displays being held during the fire season, there may be other factors that will also have to be included when evaluating the Fire Danger Rating for the District.

As part of the process in identifying and evaluating the likely risks associated with these events, Council has concluded that the following factors may also have to be considered:

- Crowds/erratic behaviour/medical disorders;
- Pressures on infrastructure and responder services;
- Traffic/road access/aircraft support availability;
- Fires/fireworks/bonfires/climatic conditions;
- Inadequate support and resource capability; and
- Limitations of water supply due to location or drought conditions.

Specific details for any contingencies or arrangements to be made in anticipation of any of the above events falls outside of the scope of this present Fire Plan, so separate documentation will be prepared to cover any special activities.

Although this Fire Plan concentrates on an attitude of *“business as usual”* during such events, the potential need for additional fire fighting resources or specialist equipment beyond that listed in Annex 8 Logistics, has been considered.

2.4.3 Fire danger / fire weather monitoring

Rural Fire Officers monitor fire danger and fire weather from the following sources:

- Compilation of RAWs data and fire weather readings for all sites in Northern Hawke's Bay and the East Coast;
- NIWA website – National Climate Centre three-month predictions;
- Five-day regional forecast – Met Service;
- Metscape Weather Service;
- Intelligence direct from rural communities;
- Regular patrols throughout District by Rural Fire Officers; and
- Regular consultation with other Rural Fire Authorities.

The primary means of reporting fires shall be through the national 111 emergency telephone system.

During periods of “Very High” and “Extreme” fire danger, the ‘Community Fire Watch System’ is implemented. All smoke reports are passed on to Rural Fire Officers and Volunteer Rural Fire Forces to ensure investigations of smoke sightings are carried out regardless of the fire season status.

[Refer Regulation 41(2)(b)]

2.4.4 Prescribed Fire:

Fire is considered to be an appropriate land management tool. However it must be noted that the provisions of the Wairoa District Plan, the Hawke’s Bay Regional Plan and the Resource Management Act 1991 must be considered before fire is used.

The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority has developed procedures to ensure fuel reduction and land clearing burn-offs are conducted in a safe manner. All such fuel reduction and burn-offs should only be undertaken only when an approved burn plan has been produced and approved by a warranted Rural Fire Officer. (See section 2.14 Fire Permits)

2.4.5 Firebreaks

Restrictions on distances for planting of trees, including boundary restrictions, size of shelter-belts and plantations, positioning of firebreaks, plantation separation distances, safety distances from power lines and public utilities, building limitations, needs for access for fire fighting, water supply requirements for fire control and security fencing etc, are detailed within the Wairoa District Plan.

The Wairoa Rural fire Authority may require firebreaks to be made or cleared, as per section 27 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act

The need to implement a firebreak for any fire will be determined by a qualified Rural Fire Officer at the fire ground, having regard to:

- Daily Fire Weather Indices
- Local climatic conditions
- Topography
- Hazards
- Risk to property
- Fire behaviour
- Skill level of person conducting the burn, or establishing the firebreak

2.4.6 Enforcement strategies

The Principal Rural Fire Officer may declare Restricted or Prohibited Fire Seasons as weather and fuel conditions determine and in accordance with RFA trigger points

Warranted Rural Fire Officers who hold relevant qualifications and have experience in fire management may issue permits during periods of restriction, or special permits during periods of prohibition. Inspections will be undertaken to determine safety aspects of any proposed fires and the need for additional conditions to be imposed on any permits issued.

2.4.7 Public Education Activities

The Public shall be kept aware of the requirements of the Act and the need for fire prevention using a number of mechanisms. These are to include:

- Publication of Fire Danger Ratings through all media
- Proactive media releases following fires
- Media releases during periods of increased fire danger
- Keeping communities informed of increasing danger through Rural Fire Forces
- Erection of fire restriction or prohibition signs, and updating of fire danger indicator signs.

- Proactive investigation of fire sightings during periods of increased fire danger
- Attendance at farming field days
- Education initiatives through community meetings, schools, and our website
- Linking with other authorities in their fire education initiatives
- Advice to land owners
- Inspection of proposed burn-offs and issue of fire permits

2.5 Public awareness and fire signs

Notification on the implementation/lifting of a Restricted or Prohibited Fire Season will be placed in the Public Notice Column of the *Wairoa Star*, *Gisborne Herald* and *Hawke's Bay Today* newspapers.

During a Prohibited Fire Season 'Total Fire Ban' and 'Light No Fires' signs will be erected at strategic locations throughout the District, as soon as possible after such a season has been declared.

[Refer Regulation 41(2)]

2.6 Directions to people on the use of fire as a land management tool

Prescribed burning is the knowledgeable application of fire to a specific land area to accomplish predetermined objectives.

The use of prescribed burning to achieve management objectives must be planned and carried out with clearly defined procedures that provide for safe work practices and manageable fire behaviour.

Key issues to be considered are

- Risk of injury to fire fighters, and the public
- Risk of fire escape
- Risk of damage to property, vegetation from fire escape
- Seasonal limitations
- Weather and fuel conditions
- Smoke management
- Traffic control
- Resourcing

Where a large or complex land clearing operation is being considered then the landowner shall prepare and submit a burn plan for approval.

In all instances where large or complex burns are being considered the PRFO shall review and approve the plan.

The use of fire for land clearing operations or disease control must comply with any requirements of the District Plan, Council Bylaws, HB Regional Council "Clean Air" Policy, and provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991 and amendments.

All activities must comply with provisions of Sections 20 and 21 of the Forest & Rural Fires Act 1977, as well as complying with the conditions stated on permits issued pursuant to Sections 23 and 24 of the Act.

Any fire must remain contained within the property on which it is lit and shall not be permitted to spread to other properties or to structures. A burn plan must be prepared for prescribed burning during a Restricted Fire Season.

Use of fire on land adjoining Crown land, forests, or another Fire Authority requires consultation with the appropriate person responsible for those adjoining areas. A copy of the Standard Burn Plan is included in Annex 14.

[Refer Regulation 41(2)(d)]

2.7 Fire Management Control Measures

The Forest and Rural Fires Act requires each Rural Fire Authority to promote and carry out fire control measures within its district, and in the interests of public safety take appropriate fire control measures, including, in particular,

- (a) The observation of weather and other conditions, and the assessment of fire hazard;
- (b) The giving of warnings of the imminence of fire hazard conditions; and
- (c) The giving of any information available in relation to fire hazard conditions.

As detailed within this Fire Plan, the Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority undertakes these and other measures to reduce the likelihood of fires occurring within its district.

2.8 Declared Forest Areas

Section 17 of the Forest & Rural Fires Act provides for the owners of forestland to apply to the Rural Fire Authority to have their land declared a forest area. [Refer regulation 47]

Before any land is declared a forest area, there are a number of conditions that must be met, the main conditions being:

- The land area must be greater than 20 hectares;
- The forest should be considered a fire hazard requiring continuous protection equivalent to a restricted season; and
- The landowner has arranged adequate fire protection.

Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority has no declared forest areas within its district.

[Refer Regulation 41(2)(e)(i)]

2.9 Fire Safety Margins

The Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority has not declared any Fire Safety Margins within its area. It recommends and promotes to all landowners of forests within its district that they follow good practice with regard to fire safety margins around their forests.

[Refer Regulation 41(2)(e)(ii)]

2.10 Fire Control Bylaws

Wairoa District Council's Urban Fire Prevention Bylaw 2011 deals with fire prevention in the urban area. This Bylaw is available from Council offices or on the Council website:.

The Fire Prevention Bylaw deals with such matters as:

- The prevention of the spreading of fires involving vegetation inside the urban fire district;
- Fires in open air;
- Permits for lighting fires in the open air;
- Conditions of lighting barbecues, incinerator fires and traditional cooking fires;
- Prohibition of fires during periods of extreme fire hazard;
- Exemptions from prohibitions on lighting fires in the open air;

- The prevention of fire, the protection of persons and property from fire risks and the provision of adequate first aid fire fighting equipment;

[Refer Regulation 41(2)(e)(iii)]

2.11 Clean Air Requirements

The Ministry for the Environment has produced National Air Quality Standards, which came into effect on 8 October 2004.

The Air Quality Standards

- ban activities that discharge significant quantities of dioxins and other toxics into the air;
- set minimum standards for outdoor air quality;
- provide the design standard for new wood burners installed in urban areas; and
- establish the requirement for landfills over 1 million tonnes of refuse to collect greenhouse gas emissions.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council has developed Rules in its Regional Resource Management Plan to limit the effects of smoke from industrial, agriculture, and home based activities. The Regional Council also provides information on good burning practice, specifies what material cannot be burnt, and also has rules for the burning of waste products. Further details on the Regional Council's rules can be found on their website:

2.12 Storage of Combustible Material

Regulation 54, of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005, deals with the storage of combustible material. The regulation notes that it is an offence if:

- (a) wood residues;
- (b) wood products;
- (c) hay, straw, or other plant cuttings; or
- (d) any product composed of more than 50% of 1 or more of the materials described in paragraphs (a) to (c);

are heaped higher than 3 m above the ground, unless the materials are stored in a fireproof container or building constructed for the purpose of storing the materials.

The storage of timber, hay, and other combustible goods is also controlled by Council Bylaws.

Spark-hazardous Engines

Section 31 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act broadly defines a spark-hazardous engine as being:

- any helicopter unless its exhaust is protected from contact with vegetation,
- any locomotive engine, motor vehicle, tractor, traction engine, portable engine, or stationary engine, or any other steam or internal combustion engine whatsoever, which is not, to the approval of a Fire Officer, provided with safe and efficient means for preventing the escape of dangerous sparks or flame from funnel or exhaust and for preventing the escape of live coals or fire from ash-pan or firebox or the escape of petrol or other flammable substance (including fumes) from any appliance or container.

The Act explicitly excludes from the definition of spark-hazardous engines any milking machine plants, shearing plants, or irrigation or other water pumping plants, or farm vehicles, appliances, or engines, used in the ordinary course of farming operations in the vicinity of farm buildings or yards.

The Act makes it an offence for a spark-hazardous machine to be operated, without the consent in writing of a Fire Officer in a Rural Fire District.

2.13 Fire Permits

Fire permits will only be issued by qualified and experienced, warranted Rural Fire Officers, and then only subject to any conditions they deem appropriate at time of issue.

No permit to burn will be issued unless the site has been first inspected by one of these Officers unless they consider that in the circumstances such an inspection is unnecessary. A guideline for the issue of Fire Permits is shown at Annex 2.

2.14 Regard to National and Regional Policy Statements, Regional and District Plans and regulations made under the Resource Management Act

The only National Policy statement made under the Resource Management Act is the Coastal Policy Statement. Hawke's Bay Regional Council has a Regional Policy Statement and Regional Resource Management Plan. There are a number of Rules within the Regional Resource Management Plan that provide some controls over the burning of material, this is covered in section 2.11 Clean Air Requirements..

Wairoa District Council has produced its District Plan, which provides for various fire prevention measures, which are detailed in section 2.4 Fire Prevention Matters. In undertaking all of its rural fire responsibilities Wairoa District Council takes account of the rules in the Regional Resource Management Plan, and its own District Plan, and Bylaws.

[Refer Regulation 41(2)(e)(iv)]

Part Three – Readiness

This section of the Fire Plan sets out those matters that are required by Regulation 42 and 43 of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005.

3 Readiness Section

The Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority is committed to maintaining a high level of fire preparedness through planning, mitigation, public education, staff training, appliance and equipment maintenance, and monitoring activities.

3.1 Readiness Policies and procedures

Wairoa District Council has adopted a number of specific policies and procedures that relate to its readiness capability to respond to rural fires within its district. Some of the more general policies and procedures were noted in section 1.4.1 Policies and Procedures. The specific policies and procedures relating to its readiness responsibilities are detailed in this part of the Fire Plan.

[Refer Regulation 42(1)]

3.2 Rural Fire Area

The various maps required by the 2005 regulations are provided below.

[Refer Regulation 42(2)(a)]

3.2.1 Map of Rural fire District and other areas for which the Fire Authority is responsible

3.2.2 Map of Geographic Boundaries of adjacent fire districts

3.2.3 Map of Rural Fire Forces Turn-out Areas

3.2.4 Map of Principal Roads in the Rural Fire District and adjacent fire districts

3.3 Rural Fire Authority's Responsibilities

The Forest and Rural Fires Act, sets out the duties and obligations of Rural Fire Authorities. Section 12 requires Rural Fire Authorities to promote and carry out fire control measures in its district. In carrying out these duties a Rural Fire Authority must comply with the standards set by the National Rural Fire Authority.

A Rural Fire Authority may also make bylaws to better enable it to carry out its fire control measures.

Section 18 sets out the obligations of a Rural Fire Authority noting that in respect of fire control measures within its district, and in the interests of public safety each Rural Fire Authority is responsible for:

- (a) The observation of weather and other conditions, and the assessment of fire hazard;
- (b) The giving of warnings of the imminence of fire hazard conditions; and
- I The giving of any information available in relation to fire hazard conditions.

[Refer Regulation 42(2)(b)]

3.3.1 Readiness Goal

Wairoa District Council has adopted the following goal in relation to its responsibilities as a Rural Fire Authority:

To safeguard life, property, and the environment by the prevention, detection, control, restriction, suppression and extinction of fire in forest and rural areas within the Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority boundaries.

3.3.2 Readiness objectives

Council's rural fire readiness objectives are to:

- a) Promote Rural Fire awareness with the public in order to encourage;
 - Responsible use of, and containment of fire;
 - Appropriate methods for land management operations;
 - Occupier-created defensible spaces around structures and areas of value;
 - Adequate water supplies;
 - Adequate access for fire appliances;
 - Prescribed burning for fuel reduction purposes;
 - Early detection and reporting of fires;
 - Recognition and management of fire risk; and
 - Incorporation of fire mitigation measures into District planning.
- b) Safely, effectively and efficiently manage fire in accordance with industry best practice.
- c) Suppress and control fires quickly without injury to the public or staff, and with minimal expense and deployment of equipment.
- d) Facilitate safe prescribed burning and issue permits to burn within three working days of a request.
- e) Provide accurate and timely advice on rural fire management, mitigation, prevention and control, in order to reduce impacts on life, property, and environment.
- f) Inspect and act on hazardous vegetation complaints within three working days of receipt of a complaint.
- g) Provision of resources including equipment and training for Volunteer Rural Fire Forces.
- h) Effectively and efficiently manage fire response in accordance with best industry practice.

3.3.3 Fire season

During the fire season Council will warn the public of the imminence and degree of fire danger conditions by the use of signs, public newspaper notices, media releases or any other means as needed.

The Principal Rural Fire Officer may impose a Restricted or Prohibited Fire Season depending upon the degree of fire danger.

During a **Restricted Fire Season**, no fire may be lit in the open without a *Permit to Burn* having first been obtained from a duly warranted and qualified Council Rural Fire Officer. Restricted Fire Seasons will generally be declared during anticipated prolonged periods of high to very high fire danger taking into consideration factors covered in Section 2.4.1 Fire Danger Management, and calculations for various fire weather indices as detailed in Annex 4.

During a **Prohibited Fire Season**, no fire may be lit in the open, except in special circumstances as defined in the Forest & Rural Fires Act 1977, and then only with a *Special Permit*. Generally, a Prohibited Fire Season will be declared during anticipated prolonged periods of very high to extreme fire danger taking into consideration the same factors as given above.

Certain activities may also be prohibited in rural areas during periods of extreme fire danger, e.g. fires in the open air, logging or tree felling operations, welding, grinding, outdoor concerts, car/motorbike rallies and fireworks, etc.

During a Prohibited Fire Season, fire resources will be inspected fortnightly to ensure they are operational. No equipment shall be removed from fire stations except for essential repairs. Should this occur, replacement equipment will be provided where possible.

3.3.4 Other readiness measures

As fire weather and fuel conditions approach extreme, Council Rural Fire Officers undertake to notify local Volunteer Fire Forces and communities of the increasing danger level. Increased proactive investigation of smoke sightings is encouraged to reduce the potential of fires becoming a problem.

All Rural Fire Forces shall comply with the requirements of the Council Rural Fire Force Standards Assurance System and all centrally held resources shall be inspected on a three monthly basis and a report furnished to the Principal Rural Fire Officer.

All Rural Fire Officers shall be fully briefed annually on the extent of their responsibilities and shall participate in at least one operational training day each year. The Duty Rural Fire Officer shall carry a pager at all times and have exclusive use of the Emergency Management Vehicle.

3.4 Chain of Command

Section 36 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act sets out the powers of a Principal Rural Fire Officer and Rural Fire Officers at fires.

The Principal Fire Officer, for the purposes of fire control, shall, if in his/her opinion a fire constitutes a hazard to life or property, endeavour by all practical means to extinguish the fire and prevent the spread of the fire to save lives and property in danger:

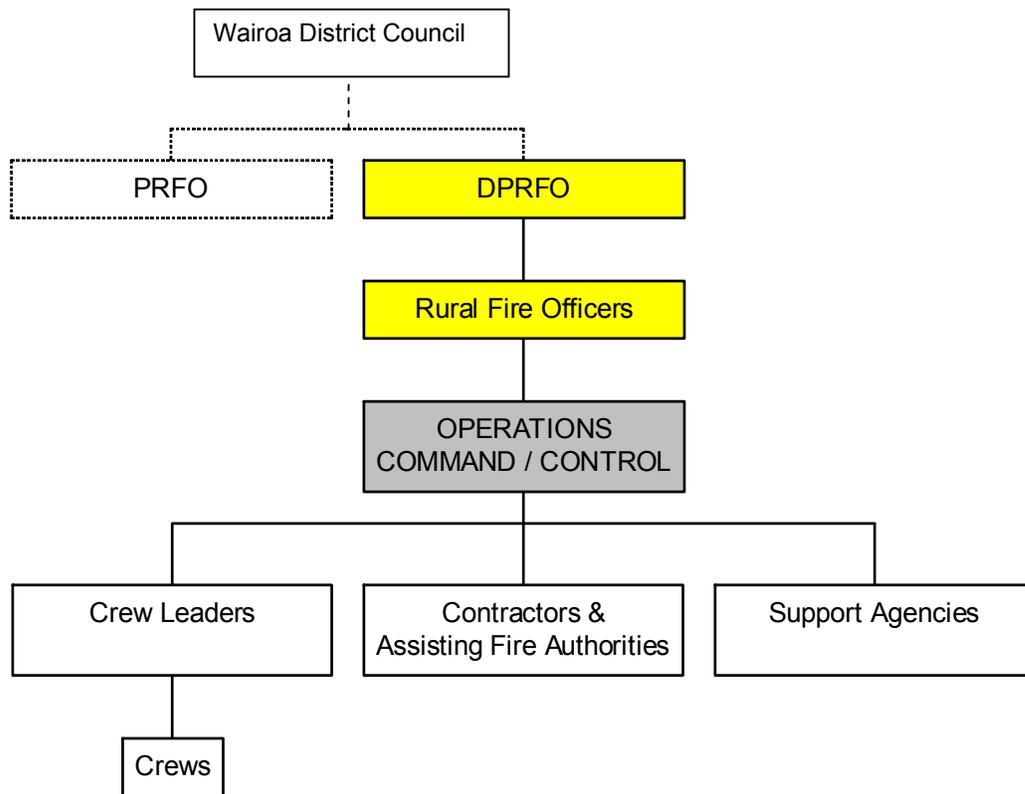
The Principal Fire Officer shall have the control and direction of any brigade present at the fire and of any people who voluntarily place their services at his/her disposal and of any persons (not being engaged in essential services) whose services he/she requires.

The Act also provides a range of specific powers to enable the Principal Rural Fire Officer and the people working under his/her authority to carry out their functions.

The following diagram outlines the Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Management structure:

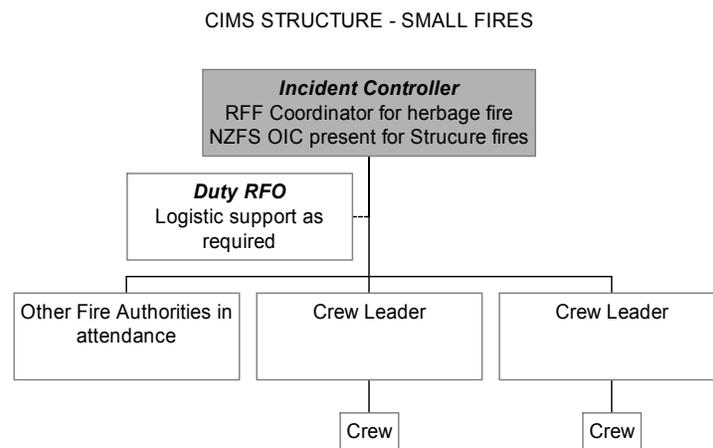
[Refer Regulation 42(2)(b)]

Figure 1: Fire Management Structure



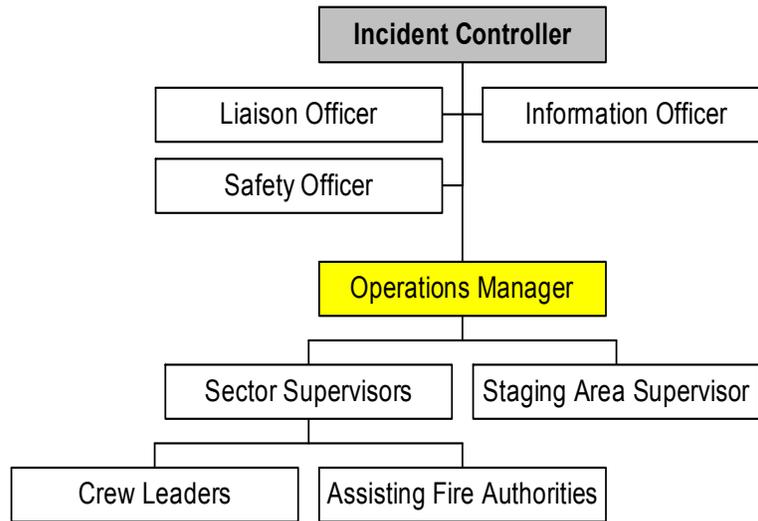
The following diagrams show the command structure that Wairoa District Council will implement to manage and control a range of different rural fires.

Figure 2: Command structure diagram for small fires



Note: Incident controller may hold more than one function.

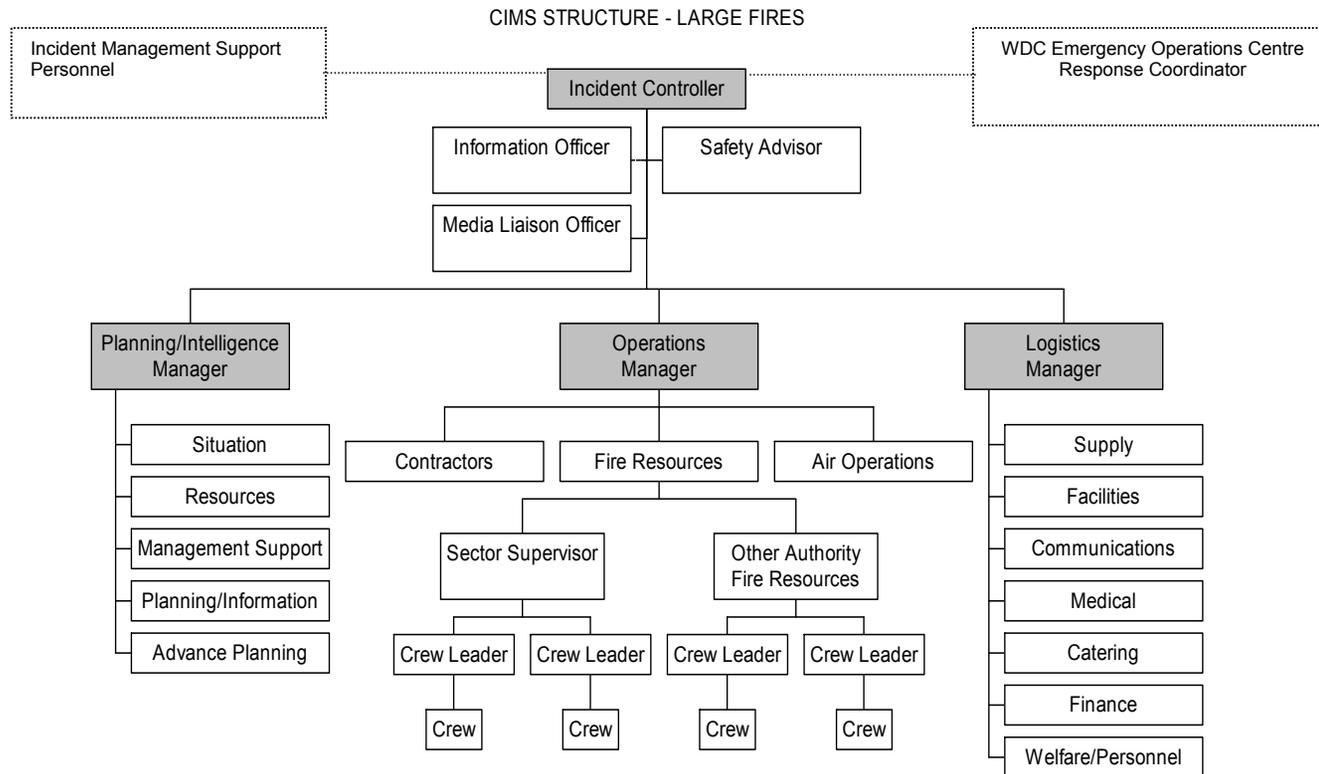
Figure 3: Command structure diagram for medium fires



Incident Control Point (ICP) will generally be established at a site near the incident as per response plans.

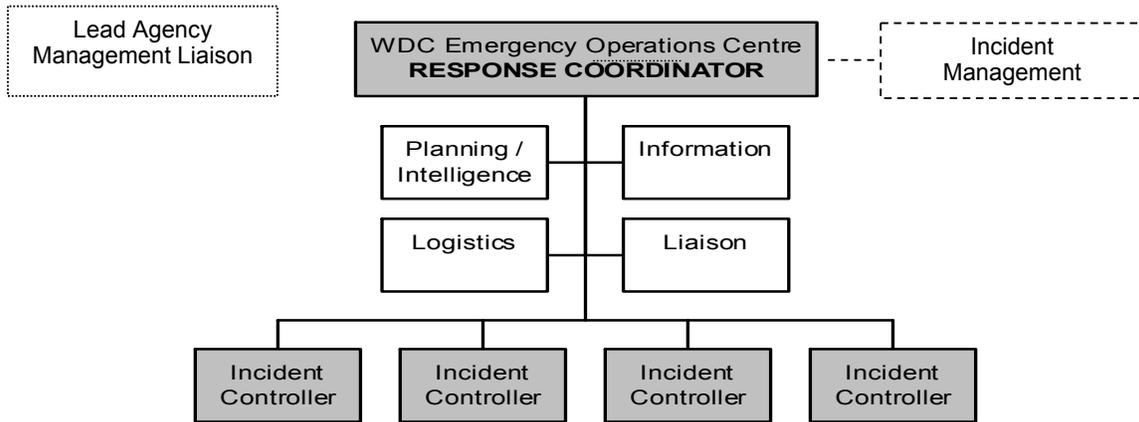
Note: The Incident Controller may hold more than one function depending on the incident but Operations will normally be delegated at medium incidents.

Figure 4: Command structure diagram for large fires



- NB:
1. Use of Divisions under Operations Manager should be considered for significant events.
 2. Incident Control Point will be established at the Wairoa Emergency Operations Centre for major events at which time, the initial ICP will become the Operations Point.
 3. A Deputy Incident Controller must be appointed. This may be a Senior Officer from another agency.
 4. Representatives from NZ Police, St John Ambulance, and appropriate RFAs should be requested to respond to the EOC to act as agency liaison officers.

Figure 5: Command structure diagram for multiple incidents



3.4.1 Incident Command Support Personnel

Support personnel may be needed to assist incident management staff with matters such as fire suppression planning, fire-line operations, logistical resources, air attack delivery, or incident control during a large fire event. This will be particularly relevant during a major fire, when the fire is unlikely to be controlled within the first operational period and personnel are required to take a break, or during multiple outbreaks of fire.

The Co-ordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) structure enables two or more Fire Authorities to operate a unified command structure for fires that cross, or threaten to cross, jurisdictional boundaries. The CIMS structure suits occasions when assistance may be requested from qualified people to implement control measures for Level II and Level III fires.

The grading schedule for the different levels is based on the Rural Fire Management Handbook. The following table provides the definitions of the various fire levels.

Table 2: Fire Incident levels

Level I	A small to medium fire that will be contained by the initial attack resources. Can be controlled within 12 hours.
Level II	A medium to large fire that requires extended attack and may involved multiple agencies. High values at risk. May take up to 24 hours to control.
Level III	A large and complex fire that may take several days to control and suppress. Likely to occur at periods of Very High or Extreme fire weather. Significant values at risk. Likely to incur large suppression costs. A National Incident Management Team is likely to be required.

Eastern Region Rural Fire Committee has access to experienced rural fire practitioners with advanced specialist skills. Under the memorandum of understanding signed by all members including Wairoa Rural Fire authority members of the committee will assist with the formation and operation of an Incident Management Team. The Hawke's Bay Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee has access to people with incident management skills which may be accessed if required.

3.4.2 National Rural Fire Authority Rural Fire Manager

Whilst the Rural Fire Manager has senior experience within the rural fire industry and could add value to an incident management team, it is recognised that the appointee has specific responsibilities and duties within the National Rural Fire Authority in the event of a major incident.

To avoid any potential conflict of interest, it is therefore more appropriate to utilise this person in an **advisory and liaison** role, rather than committing him/her to a specific incident management position.

This Rural Fire Manager may also facilitate access to other skilled incident management personnel from adjacent Regions at the request of the Incident Controller.

3.5 Principal Rural Fire Officer and Rural Fire Officers

Wairoa District Council has authority to appoint people to key Rural Fire positions as detailed below, and to delegate authority to those individuals to give effect to this Fire Plan

3.5.1 Appointments

The following people have been appointed as Rural Fire Officers, pursuant to Section 13 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977. Council has delegated *full powers* to appointees to perform their duties pursuant to Section 36 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act.

Table 3: Rural Fire Officers – Internal

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Position within council</i>
Principal Rural Fire Officer	Contracted Donald Scott
Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer	Animal Control Michael Walker

The full list of appointed rural fire officers, and their contact details is provided in Annex 5.

[Refer Regulation 42(2)]

3.6 Training Arrangements

The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority is committed to ensuring its rural fire personnel are trained and competent to international standards.

The Principal Rural Fire Officer, or deputy, shall ensure that an adequate training programme for personnel undertaking rural fire activities is carried out. The Wairoa District Rural Fire Authority shall work to meet the requirements of National Rural Fire Authority Training Standards commencing at Fire ground entry level to the positions of qualified fire fighter, pump operator and crew leader. Provision is made in annual budgets for staff training. Separate provision is also made to fund volunteer training.

[Refer Regulation 42(2)(e)]

3.6.1 Legislative Functions

Pursuant to the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, Rural Fire Force Controllers of Rural Fire Forces shall maintain a register of personnel attending each training session, along with details of training undertaken at each meeting.

3.6.2 Unit Standards Training

Training courses are structured to meet industry requirements and the assessment process is aligned to NZQA unit standards and Fire and Rescue Service Industry Training Organisation quality standards.

3.6.3 Competency Requirements

Rural Fire Personnel are being trained to National Rural Fire Authority unit standard requirements. Rural Fire Forces are listed in Annex 6 and the minimum competency requirements are specified in the Rural Fire Force Agreements in Annex 7.

[Refer Regulation 42(2)(e)]

3.7 Fire fighting Assistance

3.7.1 Dedicated fire equipment

Rural Fire Force equipment is to be maintained in a state of permanent readiness. All equipment shall be checked to meet the requirements of NRFA National Standards with a minimum inspection required at least three monthly.

No fire equipment is to be used other than for fire fighting purposes without the approval of the Principal Rural Fire Officer, or Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer.

[Refer Regulation 42(2)(g)]

3.7.2 Personal protective clothing

All members of registered Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Forces have been supplied with:

- Fire resistant overalls;
- Leather boots

- Woollen bunker coats
- Safety helmets (with neck protection and visor);
- Gloves; and
- Goggles and dust masks.

Protective clothing is *required to be worn* on the fire ground by Rural Fire Crews in accordance with the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. Hearing protection is standard appliance equipment.

3.7.3 Agencies available for support

The following are key agencies that are able to support the Wairoa Rural Fire Authority in undertaking its rural fire duties:

- New Zealand Fire Service
- National Rural Fire Authority
- Department of Conservation
- Bay Forests Rural Fire District
- Central Hawke's Bay District Council
- Eastland Rural Fire District
- Fire and Rescue New Zealand Ltd
- Gisborne District Council
- Hastings District Council
- Hawke's Bay Regional Council
- St John Ambulance Service
- Police (Wairoa, Gisborne and Napier)
- Doctors
- National Poisons Centre
- Victim Support
- Electricity & Gas supply companies
- Telecommunications companies
- Local newspapers
- Local radio stations

Contact details for these support agencies are provided in Annex 8 Logistics.
[Refer Regulation 42(2)(f)]

3.7.4 Emergency Contact details

Warranted Rural Fire Officers are available to respond immediately to any fire within the Wairoa District on a 24-hour roster and can be contacted through:

24 HOURS: Wairoa District Council - **(06) 838-7309**

OR

24 HOURS: Firecom **(04) 801-0812 Duty Pager (026 268 8931)**

3.7.5 Equipment and Personnel Resources

Wairoa District Council maintains sufficient equipment to effectively control and manage most rural fires in their district. Trained staff and volunteer fire services are located throughout the district, and are able to respond to any fire.

Details of equipment and contact details for personnel are provided in Annex 8 Logistics.

[Refer Regulation 42(2)(g)]

3.8 Arrangements and Agreements made under section 14, 15 or 16 of the Forests and Rural Fires Act.

Section 14 of the Forest & Rural Fires Act 1977 provides for the joint exercise of powers between two or more fire authorities.

Section 15 provides for the supply of equipment and fire fighting services from the NZ Fire Service Commissions, the Crown, or any industrial fire brigade under the provisions of section 16.

Section 16 allows a rural fire authority to enter into contracts or arrangements for the purpose of fire control.

In order to maintain an efficient response to fire incidents, Wairoa District Council Rural Fire District has statutory agreements with:

- The Fire Service Commission, under Section 14 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, and Section 26 of the Fire Service Act 1975.
- The Fire Service Commission, under Section 15 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, and Section 26 of the Fire Service Act 1975.
- The Fire Service Commission, under Section 36 of the Forest and Rural Fire Act 1977

Wairoa District Council has agreements for the purpose of fire control with all its volunteer rural fire forces. (See the following section.)

[Refer Regulation 42(2)(h)]

3.9 Agreements between Fire Authority and voluntary or other fire forces

All Voluntary Rural Fire Forces that have been established by the Wairoa District Council are bound by a signed Agreement, pursuant to the Forest and Rural Fire Regulations 2005.

There are 3 registered Volunteer Rural Fire Forces within the Wairoa District Council Rural Fire District.

The following table lists the Volunteer Rural Fire Force and their National Rural Fire Authority registration number. Details of personnel and resources for each Volunteer Rural Fire Force are provided in Annex 7: Volunteer Rural Fire Forces.

Table 4: Volunteer Rural Fire Forces

Volunteer Rural Fire Force	NRFA Registration Number
Mahia Rural Fire Force	170
Ruakituri Rural Fire Force	171
Tuai Rural Fire Force	172

[Refer Regulation 42(2)(i) and Regulation 63]

3.10 Specially Protected Areas

Specially protected areas are those properties that the National Rural Fire Authority has declared by notice in the *Gazette* as needing special safeguarding.

There are no specially protected areas within the Wairoa District Rural Fire Authority Area.

[Refer Regulation 42(2)(j)]

- NZ Fire Service
- Local branch of Federated Farmers
- Local news media
- Potentially affected forest owners
- Potentially affected permit holders (where practical)

Details of the actual trigger points can be found in Appendice ???

3.13 Details of fire protection works

The Wairoa District Plan sets out the requirements for land development and use. Generally, fire/fuel breaks are not a significant factor as there are no registered forest areas within the District. The onus for protective works in private forest areas rests with the owners. Council Rural Fire Officers however, provide advisory services to any landowner in this respect.

Fuel reduction is undertaken throughout the year on Council controlled reserves and roadside verges.

Council Rural Fire Officers and Rural Fire Force members attend some fuel reduction and land clearing burns in a preventative/advisory role. Prescribed burning is used as a mitigation tool in the District.

Water supply points are abundant throughout the District but many smaller sources dry up during periods of drought. Water supply points that remain available throughout the year should be identified, recorded and signposted using the following criteria

- Minimum timed intervals for helicopter/ vehicle turnaround from a central point
- Approximate capacity and depth and flow rate
- Level of maintainance
- Ground and aerial access
- Type i.e dam, stream, open water, reticulated supply

All new approved production forestry plantings should be inspected to ensure provision has been made for fire fighting water supplies.

Optimum distances to water supplies;

- Vehicles no more than twenty minutes turnaround (approx 5km)
- Helicopters no more than three minutes turnaround time (approx 5-7km)

[Refer Regulation 43(a)]

3.14 Implementation of NZ Fire danger rating system

The following guidelines will be used, as a guide to determine the resources required.

LOW / MODERATE FIRE DANGER

One Duty Rural Fire Officer on pager and/or cell phone at all times and available to respond within 10 minutes. Fire resources to be dispatched as per agreed pre-determined actions. Additional crews placed on standby as required.

HIGH FIRE DANGER

One Duty Rural Fire Officer on pager and/or cell phone at all times and available to respond within 10 minutes. Fire resources to be dispatched as per agreed pre-determined actions. Additional crews placed on standby as required.

Helicopter to be placed on standby.

VERY HIGH / EXTREME FIRE DANGER

One Duty Rural Fire Officer on pager and/or cell phone at all times and available to respond within 5 minutes. Fire resources to be dispatched as per agreed pre-determined actions. .
[Refer Regulation 43(b)]

	FFMC	DMC	DC	ISI	BUI	FWI
	Ignition Potential	Mop Up Difficulty		Rate of Spread	Fuel Available	Fire Intensity
Low	0 – 74	0 - 20	0 - 100	0 - 4	0 - 15	0 - 3
Moderate	75 – 84	21 - 30	101 - 175	5 - 8	16 - 30	4 - 13
High	85 – 87	31 - 40	176 - 250	9 - 12	31 - 45	14 - 23
Very High	88 – 91	41 - 45	251 - 350	13 - 15	46 - 59	24 - 29
Extreme	92 – 101	46 +	351+	16+	60+	30+

To Fire	On-Standby	Response Time
1 NZFS Appliance & Crew (4 FF) 1 RFA Tanker & Crew (2 FF) 1 RFO / Crew Leader 1 VRFF Appliance & Crew (4 FF)	1 VRFF Appliance & Crew 1 Helicopter	Mobilisation within 10 min 24 hours 365 days a year

<u>Class 2 Initial Response for High Weather Indices</u>				
To Fire	On-Standby	To Fire EMO	Notifications	Response Time
1 x NZFS Appliance & Crew 1 x RFA Tanker & Crew (2 FF) 1 x RFO / Crew leader 1 x VRFF Appliance & Crew 1 helicopter	1 VRFF Appliance & Crew 1 x NZFS Appliance & Crew 1 x RFA Tanker & Crew (2 FF) 1 x Helicopter	Duty Rural Fire Officer 1 Radio Operator	ISI checked daily - notify RFF & RFA's as required. Restricted/Prohibited Season may be considered.	Mobilisation within 10 min 24 hours 365 days a year

<u>Class 3 Initial Response for Very High & Extreme Fire Weather Indices</u>				
To Fire	On-Standby	To Fire EMO	Notifications	Response Time
1 NZFS Appliance & Crew 1 RFA Tankers & Crew (2 FF) 2 RFO/Crew Leader 1 VRFF Appliance & Crew 2 Helicopter	2 RFO/Crew Leader 1 VRFF Appliances & Crew 1 NZFS Appliance & Crew 1 Water Tanker & Crew (2 FF) 1 Helicopter	Duty Rural Fire Officer Incident Management Personnel	ISI checked daily - notify RFF & RFA's as required. Restricted/prohibited Season may be posted	Mobilisation within 10 min Mobilisation of support incident management personnel within 1 hour 24 hours 365 days a year

NOTE The Principal Rural Fire Officer or Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer may alter any response at his discretion.

3.15 Fire Danger Indication Awareness Signs

Fire Danger Indicator signs within the Wairoa District are maintained by the Eastland Rural Fire District and Bay Forests Rural Fire District. It is considered that as these signs provide notification at both major entry points to the district the Wairoa Rural Fire Authority will not provide signs of this type.

When a Restricted Fire Season is declared, the Wairoa Rural Fire Authority erects standard "Fire Restriction" signs on all major routes leading into the District and leading out of the urban areas.

When a Prohibited Fire Season is declared, the Wairoa Rural Fire Authority erects standard "Fire Prohibition" signs on all major routes into the District and leading out of the urban areas as required by the Forest & Rural Fires Act 1977.

[Refer Regulation 43(c)]

3.16 Resource Response to Specific Fire Danger Levels

Wairoa Rural Fire Authority has developed the following resource requirements for responding to various levels of rural fire. This is based on industry best practice, and the analysis of the risk assessment and wildfire risk analysis.

3.16.1 Small Incident

5 – 15 people	small fire
Local control	short duration 2-4 hours
no complex problems/exposures	0-5 ha

3.16.2 Medium Incident

15 – 30 people	small/medium fire
Group control	medium duration – up to 24 hrs
some complex problems/exposures	5-20 ha

3.16.3 Large Incident

30+ people	Large or running fire
District control	Long duration >1 day

Complex situation – exposures/evacuations	20+ ha
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[Refer Regulation 43(d)]

Part Four – Response

This section of the Fire Plan sets out those matters that are required by Regulation 44 and 45 of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005.

4 Response Section

The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority is committed to maintaining a safe and effective response capability to ensure rapid deployment of suppression resources to, and efficient actions at fires, to minimise outbreaks of wildfire.

The purpose of this section is to outline arrangements with those agencies, organisations and fire forces, both within and outside of Council, relating to training, operational procedures and action to prevent, suppress and control forest and rural fires within the Wairoa District.

4.1 Response Policies and procedures

Rural Fire Forces are not to place themselves, other personnel, or any equipment in danger by undertaking any *interior structural fire fighting* task that they are not trained to do. Fire Forces must involve themselves with *initial attack* action for fire containment and protection of exposures. In undertaking these activities, personnel must be familiar with the means of protection against elements and conditions that can become hazardous.

[Refer Regulation 44(1)]

4.2 Response Procedures

Fire suppression operations will take priority over every other Council activity except in the case of a Declared Civil Defence Emergency or other life-threatening situation.

Priorities in the event of fire are:

- **FIRST** **Human life**
- SECOND Protection of Community Assets, property, or special values.
- THIRD Exotic and Indigenous Forest, and Council Reserves.
- FOURTH Scrub and other vegetation

Where there are multiple fires, those posing the greatest threat if left uncontrolled, will be extinguished first.

The following Officers will perform the operational role of Response Co-ordinator at the Emergency Operations Centre in the event of a major event or multiple incidents to ensure appropriate prioritisation of resources occurs:

- Principal Rural Fire Officer
- Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer
- Primary Civil Defence Controller

Key individuals from other agencies may be delegated this function by the Principal Rural Fire Officer during extended operations, supported by Wairoa District Council management staff in a “lead agency” liaison role.

All personnel who respond to the fire ground will receive a fire ground safety briefing.

4.2.1 Stand down / changeover

When standing down or changing over personnel at a fire scene, all personnel involved in the incident shall use standard CIMS procedures to ensure that: -

- Their replacement is fully briefed;
- All personnel and equipment resources are accounted for;
- Details taken at the fire scene are recorded and passed on; and
- People are physically checked out at the Incident Control Point before departing.

The Principal Rural Fire Officer is responsible for ensuring that all people working on a fire scene adopt appropriate working times and that all people who need it have access to welfare support.

4.2.2 Action after fires/incidents

Part of the response procedure following any fire incident is to ensure that all equipment is re-commissioned and that there are sufficient rested and trained crews available to respond to another call out should one occur.

Procedures for operational debriefs are covered in the Recovery section of this Fire Plan.

4.2.3 Road scene safety

All road scene matters are undertaken in accordance with the East Coast Council's Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management.

Personnel *must* take extreme care when working on roadways, especially high-speed highways.

Hazard warning devices (road cones, flares, beacons, safety triangles, etc) must be placed well in advance, front and rear, of operational areas (at least 200m), to protect the scene from oncoming traffic. Particular attention must be given to high-risk areas, such as hollows and blind spots, where personnel could be particularly vulnerable to oncoming traffic.

Non-essential personnel/vehicles should perform this task, especially at night or when visibility is poor. Personnel are to ensure that headlights and beacons/hazard lights of appliances/vehicles are turned on (even when stationary), day or night, to clearly warn oncoming traffic of the incident scene.

The use of emergency beacon lights may need to be minimised when operating in the close proximity of helicopters so as to reduce glare hazard for pilots, especially at night.

A "Safety Advisor" will be appointed to specifically look after the safety of individuals and crews at any incident involving four or more fire appliances/crews, or where aerial operations are occurring.

Personnel must wear appropriate high visibility/reflective clothing whilst carrying out any task where there is the likelihood of road traffic. The reliance on the standard reflective stripes on protective fire coveralls is not sufficient in these circumstances.

Orange safety road marker cones or fire signs must be established on the road verge adjacent to the entrance to the fire ground, to clearly indicate the turn-off direction for all responding resources. In the absence of appropriate markers, a non-essential support person should be assigned to direct on-coming resources.

If required NZ Fire Service fire-police can be used for managing safety and traffic.

4.2.4 Aircraft safety - fixed wing and helicopter

Aircraft operations must have a designated Air Operations Manager who is responsible for the safety of personnel and filling procedures. Notwithstanding this, personnel must be conscious of undertaking safe practices and following safety rules when approaching, or

working near, any aircraft. Personnel who wear helmets when working with aircraft shall use chinstraps to make helmets secure.

Safety procedures must be adhered to when working with aircraft. The Incident Controller must ensure adequate safety procedures are in place before any personnel are committed to air support operations.

A Lead Pilot shall be appointed by the Incident Controller/Air Operations Manager to coordinate and supervise all pilots engaged in aerial suppression operations. This appointment must be recorded on the Incident Log.

Consideration should be given to requesting *temporary restricted airspace* at large fires where there are three or more aircraft working or where a convection column of smoke may create a hazard to passing aircraft. The Lead Pilot or Air Operations Manager should advise the Incident Controller of this need, also having given regard to the impact of other aircraft in the airspace on the safety of aerial fire fighting operations.

A copy of CAA criteria for requesting temporary restricted airspace is held at the Wairoa District Council Emergency Operations Centre.

4.2.5 Electrical hazards¹

Under no circumstances are personnel to be committed to extinguish fires near, or under, power lines, particularly high voltage transmission lines and towers, without first ensuring that power has been isolated and/or turned off. Use of water or driving vehicles with radio aerials underneath electrified lines is particularly hazardous.

All power lines are to be treated as "live" until confirmed inactive by the appropriate power authority (Transpower, Eastland Network, etc).

Caution should also be exercised in the vicinity of high-voltage electric fence wires passing over gates etc.

4.2.6 Fuel hazards

Similar precautions as noted in section [4.2.5 Electrical Hazards](#) must also be applied when fires are near gas lines, especially pressurised pipes and cylinders.

4.2.7 Hazardous substances

Personnel *must be alert* to the possibility of hazardous substances being consumed by fire. While the danger of flame impingement on LPG/CNG/OXY-ACETYLENE cylinders, etc, is usually obvious, other substances that are less noticeable may also be involved in the fire. Chemicals, furnishings, and some forms of natural vegetation can be hazardous when burnt.

4.3 Reporting of fire related accidents

All Rural Fire personnel are to report any fire related accident, injury, or near miss (accident) to the Duty Rural Fire Officer, Principal Rural Fire Officer or Incident Controller *as soon as possible*, i.e. at the time of the accident. Council may require an *Accident Report* and/or *medical certificate* to support any documentation, especially if a claim is likely to be made on ACC as a consequence.

If not already in attendance, the Principal or Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer shall respond immediately to investigate all serious harm accidents, to assess welfare needs of the casualty and Fire Force members affected, and to ensure Council procedures are followed.

4.3.1 Receiving of Fire Calls

In order to ensure there is the ability to build a response to any particular event, a Duty Rural Fire Officer shall be rostered to provide 24-hour coverage 365 days of the year for the

¹ Maps and details of the main gas networks, electricity lines, and other engineering utilities are provided in the HB Engineering Lifeline study completed in 2001.

period of this plan. The Duty Rural Fire Officer shall have the use of the Emergency Management Officer's Utility Vehicle at all times.

The primary means of reporting a fire within the District is the 111 system, which directs fire and related incident calls to the New Zealand Fire Service Communications Centre (FIRECOM).

The Wairoa District Council has an agreement with the NZFS to provide the initial response to all fire calls with the nearest Rural Fire Force providing either a back up or parallel response. Fire Com notifies the Duty Rural Fire Officer either via the pager system or by calling the Wairoa District Council 24 hour number (06 838 7309). This arrangement is in place permanently.

[Refer Regulation 44(2)(a)]

4.3.2 Emergency 111 system

All fire emergencies should be reported on the 111 telephone system.

FIRECOM on receipt of notification of a fire related incident within Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority area of responsibility, will:

- Complete actions as per the Predetermined Attendance for that area.
- Obtain details about the fire including: property RAPID Number, road name, property name, District or Region location, size of the fire, what is burning, terrain, weather conditions, and details about any life or property endangered.
- Immediately following the above, page the Duty Rural Fire Officer on 026 268 8931

The Duty Rural Fire Officer, or PRFO or Deputy will take the following actions if not already taken:

- Call back FIRECOM, 04 801 0812 to confirm incident details within ten minutes of receiving the call.
- Initiate any necessary actions in respect to back up or response
- Register the call in the Duty Rural Fire Officer incident book
- Proceed to the fire scene with all possible speed and determine whether the fire requires extinguishing
- Provide all personnel with a safety briefing from checklist before deploying resources.

If an acknowledgment has not been received within ten (10) minutes from the Duty Rural Fire Officer, the NZFS Communications Centre, will:

- Re-activate the Duty Rural Fire Officer pager; and
- Telephone Wairoa District Council 24 Hour number (06-838 7309)
- Repeat process until acknowledgment has been received.

4.3.3 Contact of duty rural fire officers

Warranted Rural Fire Officers are available to respond to any fire within the Wairoa District on a 24-hour roster and can be contacted through:

24 HOURS:	Via Wairoa District Council (24 Hours) -	(06) 838 7309
	OR	
24 HOURS:	Via Firecom on alphanumeric telepagers -	(04) 801 0812

4.3.4 Systems for Response to Fire Calls

Preferred minimum initial fire response levels, based upon the New Zealand Fire Danger Rating System are shown in sections [3.14 Implementation of New Zealand Fire Danger Rating System](#) and [3.16 Resource Response to Specific Fire Danger Levels](#). These will be assessed and modified by the Rural Fire Authority depending on the daily fire danger rating.

A summary of the major resources available to Wairoa District Council is provided in the following table.

Table 5: Summary of major resources

Resource	Number available
Fire Appliances	3
Fire Tankers	2
Response Vehicles	1
Portable Pumps - High pressure/high volume	3
Portable Pumps - High pressure/medium volume	2
Portable pumps – Medium pressure/medium volume	3
Portable Pumps - High pressure/low volume	3
Portable Dams	5
Helicopter LZ Marking Sets	1

Rural Fire Officers will alert the all Rural Fire Forces when fire weather conditions become very high to extreme in accordance with daily Fire Weather Index ratings, and key aerial operators and other contractors may also be placed on standby as appropriate.

Standby levels for fire crews, pre-warning of key agency liaison staff, and staffing of the Emergency Operations Centre will be determined in advance of any outbreak of fire by Council Rural Fire Officers when calculating predicted fire behaviour and forward rates of spread during such periods of elevated fire danger.

[Refer Regulation 44(2)(b)]

4.3.5 Staff action on the receipt of a fire call

All Council staff must refer any report of fire (except smoke complaints) to the Duty Rural Fire Officer

The Rural Fire Officer receiving a fire call will identify the location of the fire and determine the action to be taken using the current Rural Fire Plan. If the address is outside of Wairoa Rural Fire Authorities area of jurisdiction, the Fire Authority responsible for the area shall be immediately advised of the details. Neighbouring forest owners should be similarly advised of any potential threats to their assets.

All details will be recorded on the standard Initial Fire Call Action Sheet (see Annex 11), the Duty Rural Fire Officer or Principal Rural Fire Officer must be immediately alerted and appropriate resources dispatched or placed on stand by as necessary.

If applicable, people who may be subsequently trapped or affected by vegetation fire will be warned via local radio broadcasting media or rural community networks.

The Incident Controller may request an ambulance to be on standby at the incident if four or more fire appliances/crews are actively engaged in suppression operations.

Records will be kept showing timing of events, decisions taken, tasks given, staff movement, replacements, close down of local fire scene command and steps taken to investigate the cause of any fire, and confirmation that the fire is declared out.

4.3.6 Actions by attending rural fire officer

On receipt of incident details, a warranted Rural Fire Officer shall:

- a. Pursuant to the Forest & Rural Fires Act 1977, proceed immediately with all possible speed, due care and attention, to the fire scene.
- b. Liaise with, and seek a briefing from any Rural Fire Forces, other agencies, or persons already in attendance and make an assessment of the scale and seriousness of the fire.
- c. Establish an Incident Control Point (ICP), take command of the incident and advise all support agencies in attendance, Emergency Operations Centre, and Firecom that he/she has done so.
- d. Notify other fire authorities, owners of forests, or other interested parties in the vicinity of the incident.
- e. Take appropriate action to control events to suppress fires, in liaison with other Fire Authorities that initially attend the fire/incident, and identify and secure the area of origin pending a detailed fire investigation by Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Officers or by contracted fire investigators.
- f. As soon as fire suppression operations permit, release the NZ Fire Service, other Fire Authorities in attendance, and additional resources for redeployment to further incidents.
- g. If the fire is already, or is likely to develop into a large fire:
 - Establish a command structure (CIMS) (See [Figure 5. Command Structure Diagram for Large Fires](#)), and notify the Principal Rural Fire Officer.
 - Establish communications networks on the fire ground and activate the Emergency Operations Centre.
 - Call up, or place on stand by, sufficient personnel and equipment to contain, control and suppress the fire, including other Volunteer Rural Fire Forces, contract staff and equipment, adjoining Rural Fire Authorities, helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, or other resources if required (See Appendix 8 – Logistics).
 - Notify the National Rural Fire Authority Rural Fire Manager as soon as practical if the fire is likely to become a regional emergency, likely to attract media attention, if fire fighters are harmed, or if a claim on the Rural Fire Fighting Fund appears likely.
 - Take all necessary action to extinguish the fire.
 - Consider requesting assistance from suitably qualified personnel for Incident Management for major Level II fires and Level III fires.
 - Establish a staging area/s and record all incoming and outgoing personnel and equipment at this point.
 - Request and maintain effective logistical support (e.g. food, drinks, clothing, lighting, first aid, shelter, transport and/or additional communications) to the fire ground, through the Emergency Operations Centre, especially where the fire is likely to be prolonged, i.e. over several hours.
 - Task crews with mop-up patrols to ensure the fire is completely extinguished and all hot spots are out and that fire cannot re-ignite or spread.
 - Secure point of origin and any evidence, photograph, impound and secure exhibits, establish the cause of the fire, obtain names and statements from any witnesses, including how the fire/incident was initially reported, and complete a Fire Investigation Report and record relevant statistics on the Fire Incident Report Form.

- Complete Fire Incident Forms and conduct operational critiques within 10 days if required.
- Inspect and reconstitute all equipment upon return to fire station. Log any defective resources and immediately notify the Council Duty Rural Fire Officer.

[Refer Regulation 44(2)(c) and 45(2)(b)]

4.3.7 Systems for Response to Fire Calls

The establishment and maintenance of effective communications is a top priority at any fire. Linkages will be required on the fire ground and between Incident Control Point and the Emergency Operations Centre. Communications are essential to ensure safety, summon aid, effect command, maintain control, direct resources, provide instructions, facilitate co-ordination and co-operation, keep people informed, and to record events and decisions.

[Refer Regulation 45(1)]

4.3.8 Local Resources Contingent Capacity

The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority has established 3 registered Volunteer Rural Fire Forces. The details of the local resources both personnel and equipment available to Wairoa District Council to assist with fire fighting are provided in Annex 5 and Annex 6.

4.4 Fire Ground Activities

4.4.1 Command and Control at Incidents

Where any other Fire Authority initially attends a fire within the jurisdiction of the Wairoa Rural Fire Authority, the senior person present will be the person in charge until a warranted Rural Fire Officer or the Duty Rural Fire Officer arrives. At that time, control of the fire will pass to the Principal Rural Fire Officer, or delegated Rural Fire Officer, or any other person authorised in that regard by the Principal Rural Fire Officer (Refer Section 15, of the Forest and Rural Fires Act, 1977). Details of chain of command for rural fires are shown in section 3.4 Chain of Command. Where Rural Fire Forces are first in attendance at any fire or incident within the District, the Fire Force Controller (warranted Rural Fire Officer) at the scene will initially be in charge until the Duty Rural Fire Officer is in attendance. Advice may be sought from experienced persons from other attending organisations but *control* of any incident will remain with Wairoa Rural Fire Authority personnel as the "lead agency".

If the fire requires more resources, the Emergency Management Officer will immediately activate the Wairoa District Council Emergency Operations Centre and arrange for appropriate logistical support.

All staff on the fire ground shall ensure that they have:

- Been assigned a job that is within their personal capabilities.
- A clear understanding of whom they are responsible to, and for whom they are responsible.
- A clear understanding of what each person is responsible for.
- A clear understanding of the *Standard Safety Orders*, prior to entering the fire ground.
- A clear understanding of any special hazards pertaining to the fire ground.
- Identified escape route(s).
- Appropriate equipment.

Identification

All command personnel, especially those with key roles or functions, must be easily identified by fire fighters or supervisors at a rural fire incident. Rank identification for command personnel shall therefore be:

- **Incident Controller** - Jerkin showing designation
- **CIMS Support Team** - Coloured jerkins showing command designation.
- **Safety Officer** - Jerkin showing designation
- **Rural Fire Officer** - White Helmet, Orange flameproof coveralls
- **Crew Leader** - Orange Helmet, Orange flameproof overalls
- **Fire Fighters** - Yellow Helmet, Yellow flameproof coveralls.

[Refer Regulation 44(2)(d)]

4.4.2 Inter Communication Effectiveness

The Wairoa District Rural Fire Authority area covers over 200,000 hectares of land ranging from coastal plains to high-mountain terrain. Communication dead spots exist in many isolated areas. To reduce the impact of this, Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Authority has multiple channel radio communications capability through the Civil Defence network.

Wairoa District Council rural fire appliances and vehicles are fitted with Fire Service LMR to provide alternative coverage and to facilitate efficient communications at inter-agency operations. The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority has access to the National Rural Fire Authority Central North Island Fire Service portable repeater if required.

The Emergency Management vehicle is fitted with Department of Conservation and forestry radio-telephone channels to facilitate efficient communications at combined operations and to provide extended cover in marginal reception areas.

Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Officers also carry vehicle and hand-held ground-to-air radios. Helicopter companies have the Wairoa District Council frequency fitted to some aircraft to enable direct contact with either incident control or the Emergency Operations Centre.

Trained personnel and volunteers will be mobilised to staff the Emergency Operations Centre as required by the Principal Rural Fire Officer. Establishment of communications between the fire scene and the Emergency Operations Centre shall be the first priority. This will normally be by radio-telephone, although a cellular phone may be used if suitable.

Establishment of a communications network at the fire (runners, hand held radios, mobile radio's, cell phones) is the second priority.

The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority maintains multi-channel capability on hand-held and vehicle radios to facilitate separation of the various functions as detailed in 3.2 below, including Fire Service liaison channels.

The Incident Controller will ensure the following information is conveyed to the Emergency Operations Centre, when it is activated:

- Advise immediately if an emergency situation develops.
- Progress reports, particularly before 1500 hours on workdays (to allow for possible shift changes and meal arrangements).
- Advise time when fire suppression action is completed, when mop-up operations are completed, and when the fire is either left in the hands of the landowner or declared out.

Figure 6: Communications plan for large fires

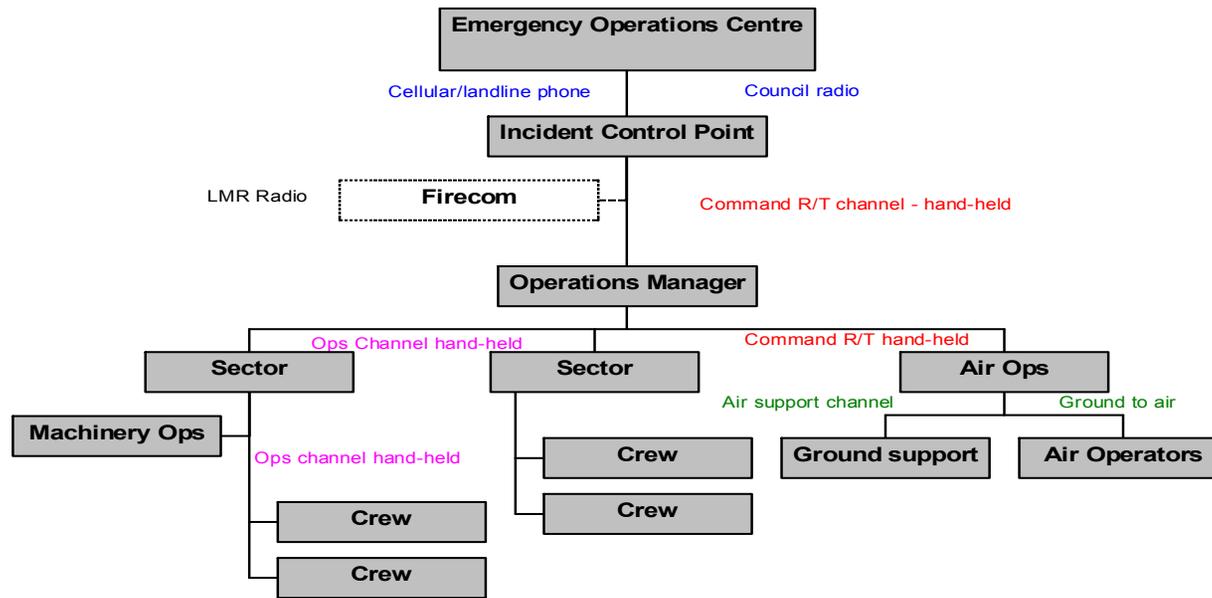


Table 6: Channel allocations – Wairoa District Council hand-held radios**Rural Fire Force Hand-helds**

CHAN ID	CHAN NAME	RX.FREQ (MHz)	TX.FREQ (MHz)	NAME OF NETWORK
1	FFSPX 84	153.53125	153.53125	FIRE SIMPLEX 1
2	FFSPX 63	150.83750	150.83750	FIRE SIMPLEX 2
3	FFXPX 86	153.55625	153.55625	FIRE SIMPLEX 3
4	AERO SP1	165.75000	165.75000	FIRE AERO LINK
5	NZFS SX1	143.82500	143.82500	FIRE SERVICE H/H SPX
6	E145 CH3	152.55000	154.33125	PORTABLE FIRE RPTR
7	WDC CHI	151.05000	155.23125	WDC1
8	WDC CH2	151.75000	155.93125	WDC2
9	04 ES119	142.48750	139.48750	DOC 4
10	06 ES121	142.51250	139.51250	DOC 6
11	OPS PRU	143.03750	143.03750	DOC 20
12	JNL 7	152.77500	154.55625	JNL7 WHARERATA
13	JNL 9	152.82500	154.60625	JNL 9 PATANAMU
14	OLSN 1	151.57500	155.75625	OLSEN WHAKAPUNAKI
15	WHAKAPI	151.70000	155.88125	E77 LOCAL TRUCKING WPE

EMO Vehicle Radio

CHAN ID	CHAN NAME	RX.FREQ (MHz)	TX.FREQ (MHz)	NAME OF NETWORK
1	WDC CHI	151.05000	155.23125	
2	WDC CH2	151.75000	155.93125	
3	SIMPLEX	153.50625	153.50625	WDC SIMPLEX
7	JNL 7	152.77500	154.55625	JNL7 WHARERATA
8	WHAKAPI	151.70000	155.88125	E77 LOCAL TRUCKING WPE
9	JNL 9	152.82500	154.60625	JNL 9 PATANAMU
11	OLSN 1	151.57500	155.75625	OLSEN WHAKAPUNAKI
12	NZFS SX1	143.82500	143.82500	FIRE SERVICE H/H SPX
13	E145 CH3	152.55000	154.33125	PORTABLE FIRE RPTR
14	FFSPX 84	153.53125	153.53125	FIRE SIMPLEX 1
15	FFSPX 63	150.83750	150.83750	FIRE SIMPLEX 2
16	FFXPX 86	153.55625	153.55625	FIRE SIMPLEX 3
17	AERO SP1	165.75000	165.75000	FIRE AERO LINK
25	CIMS SX	140.98750	140.98750	LIAISON SX
26	RELAY	150.83750	150.83750	PRU RELAY ACCESS
30	17 SX B	140.62500	140.62500	DOC SIMPLEX B
31	15 SX A	140.55000	140.55000	DOC SIMPLEX A
32	01 ES116	142.45000	139.45000	DOC 1
33	02 ES117	142.46250	139.46250	DOC 2
34	03 ES118	142.47500	139.47500	DOC 3
35	04 ES119	142.48750	139.48750	DOC 4
36	05 ES120	142.50000	139.50000	DOC 5
37	06 ES121	142.51250	139.51250	DOC 6
38	07 ES122	142.52500	139.52500	DOC 7
39	08 ES123	142.53750	139.53750	DOC 8
40	09 ES124	142.55000	139.55000	DOC 9
41	10 ES154	142.92500	139.92500	DOC 10
42	11 ES155	142.93750	139.93750	DOC 11
43	12 ES156	142.95000	139.95000	DOC 12
44	13 ES157	142.96250	139.96250	DOC 13
45	OPS PRU	143.03750	143.03750	DOC 20
46	CIMS PRU	143.05000	143.05000	LIAISON PRU

[Refer Regulation 44(2)(e)]

4.4.3 Monitoring Fire Behaviour

Monitoring Fire Behaviour

The Wairoa District Council has access to a network of fire weather stations throughout the fire authority area which can provide up to date information on fire weather if required.

In addition RFO response vehicles also carry Kestrels capable of providing weather information at a fire site.

A fire behaviour expert should be responded to all long duration fires to gather information on the actual and predicted behaviour of the fire.

[Refer Regulation 45(2)(d)]

4.4.4 Recording of Personnel and Equipment

All personnel reporting at the fire ground, including those from other agencies such as NZ Fire Service, shall:

- Check in at the Incident Control Point (indicated by signs) and give name of all personnel and status of equipment contributed.
- Receive a defined task identifying designation within the command structure, person to whom responsible, whom responsible for, responsibilities (Supervisor, Equipment, Fire Sector/Line), and resources available.
- Receive a full briefing on fire ground communications system and extent of fire (disposition of resources, call signs, radio channels, fuel types, methods of suppression, fire ground sectors, threats, weather, escape routes or safe zones etc).
- Brief accompanying personnel of assigned tasks, responsibilities, and fire situation.
- Be informed of additional hazards where appropriate.

When carrying out an assigned task, personnel shall:

- Ensure an effective and safe chain of command at all times.
- Ensure effective communications at all times.
- Provide progress reports through the chain of command.
- Maintain records of staff inputs on the fire ground (i.e. hours worked by personnel and movement of equipment).
- Accord the highest priority to safety on - dangerous situations, up slope danger, entering areas of unburned fuel, moving up natural chimney formations within gullies, etc.

[Refer Regulation 45(2)(c)]

4.4.5 Recording fire incidents

A running log of events, radio, and telephone messages shall be maintained by staff at the Emergency Operations Centre and at all Incident Control Points established at rural fire incidents.

The Emergency Operations Centre will use standard Civil Defence message forms to record and time all transmissions, telephone calls, notifications, Emergency Operations Centre staff start and finish times, and other activities relevant to an event.

The Incident Control Point will chronologically record and time all fire ground activities, including arrival and departure times of personnel and resources, all changes of command, changes of fire status/behaviour, relevant radio transmissions, and any other relevant data.

Incident Situation Reports will be completed on the common CIMS forms and then be attached to the Incident Log Form on completion of operations. Incident Action Plans will also be completed on common CIMS forms and attached to the log.

All Incident Action Plans, Incident Management Forms and daily logs will be filed together at the completion of each daily shift (long duration event) and/or the incident (short duration event.)

Emergency Action Checklists and briefing forms should be completed and attached to the log as appropriate. A copy of this checklist is included in Appendix 12.

[Refer Regulation 45(2)(a)]

4.4.6 Air operations log

A log of air operations shall be kept using the appropriate Wairoa District Council forms, which are included in Annex 14

4.4.7 National incident management forms

Wairoa Rural Fire Authority has adopted the use of common forms for incident management in line with the initiative led by Department of Conservation and National Rural Fire Authority to ensure consistency with other Fire Authorities.

4.4.8 Rural fire force reporting

Rural Fire Force staff shall report on all incidents to the Duty Rural Fire Officer using the Wairoa Rural Fire Authority Fire Incident Report Form. A copy of the form is included in Annex 12.

4.4.9 Logistical Support

If the fire requires more resources, the Duty Rural Fire officer or Emergency Management Officer will immediately activate the Wairoa District Council Emergency Operations Centre and arrange for appropriate logistical support.

Contact details for personnel and equipment are contained in Annex 8: Logistics.

[Refer Regulation 45(2)(e)]

4.4.10 Welfare Support

Rural Fire Forces are advised to maintain enough sustenance (i.e. high-energy snacks, liquid replacement, etc) with their equipment for their own immediate use on the fire ground.

If personnel have been working on the fire ground for four hours without a main meal before being called to the fire, immediate action is to be taken to provide a substantial meal within two hours.

At fires of longer duration, substantial hot meals are to be made available to each person involved with the fire, every six hours maximum, and preferably four hours optimum.

Welfare resources will be arranged directly by the Incident Controller for fires of short duration. For fires of longer duration welfare resources will be obtained through the Emergency Operations Centre.

Porta Loos should be dispatched to the fire ground for all incidents that are likely to run for more than four hours. (See Annex 8 Logistics for details.)

4.4.11 Relief Crews

Details of relief crews and contact details are provided in Annex 8: Logistics. Wairoa Rural Fire Authority has standard procedures for the length of time crews can operate at a fire scene and details of replacing fire crews are provided in section 4.2.1. [Changeover/ Stand down](#)

Part Five – Recovery

This section of the Fire Plan sets out those matters that are required by Regulation 46 of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005.

5 Recovery Section

The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority is committed to maintaining procedures to ensure all aspects of the post-fire phase are dealt with in a safe, efficient and effective manner.

5.1 Policies and procedures

Council has established policies to meet the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991, Health & Safety in Employment Act 1992, and any other Acts or Regulations relating to protection of people and the environment. Council has a responsibility for management of land resources, and for reinstatement of land damaged during fire suppression operations pursuant to the Resource Management Act.

[Refer Regulation 46(1)]

5.2 Protected Areas

There are no registered protected areas within the Wairoa Rural Fire District. See section 3.10 Specially Protected areas however, there are a number of sites of environmental interest managed by Department of Conservation, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, and other agencies within the Wairoa Rural Fire Area.

The Wairoa District Council will work with the owner/manager of any land deemed to be of environmental interest with regard to how best to assist with recovery issues as may be required.

5.3 Rehabilitation of Damaged Areas

Council maintains a plan for the co-ordination of recovery from cultural, societal, and environmental impacts resulting from disasters, including wildfires.

Wairoa District Council and Hawke's Bay Regional Council work in partnership on environmental issues and a HBRC Environmental Officer will be consulted regarding recovery issues as required.

Rural Fire Fighters are trained to minimise damage to property and disturbance to the environment as part of standard training courses.

5.4 Use of Additives

The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority will not use foam (or soap capsules) in wetlands, swamps and other waterways. Precautions will be taken to minimise any major contamination of watercourses as foam kills aquatic life, even at low concentrations. The use of additives should also be avoided in environmentally sensitive areas where rare life forms may be at risk. The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority will treat all Department of Conservation reserves as 'sensitive' until advised otherwise.

Council Rural Fire Officers will ensure that recovery is implemented as part of the Incident Management Plan by minimising environmental and cultural damage through the adoption of appropriate suppression strategies. This includes consideration of the impact of various fire attack methods, use of additives, and any pre-existing restrictions or limitations.

Council policy is to remove all rubbish, foam containers, etc. associated with suppression operations prior to final departure from the scene and to reinstate staging and operational areas as best as is practicable.

5.5 Mop-up procedures recovery section

Mop up operations will be conducted at all fires. No burnt-over area shall be treated as safe until the person in charge at the fire scene has carried out a personal inspection. The Incident Controller will be solely responsible for giving the final clearance that responsibility has been handed over to the landowner or that the fire is declared out.

The following tasks must be done during mop-up operations:

- Hot spots are to be systematically searched out and burning spars are to be felled.
- Adequate and reliable patrols are to be undertaken.
- Infrared heat detection equipment may be used in questionable situations.
- Fire equipment is to be collected in a manner that will enable it to be effectively used again immediately should the need arise.
- Consideration is to be given to frequent inspections of the fire ground until heavy rain, or continual rain, has fallen.
- All rubbish associated with suppression operations must be removed from the incident ground.

5.6 Personnel Health and Safety

Health and safety of rural fire fighters is of paramount importance and is encompassed within the Wairoa District Council Health and Safety Policy.

All personnel involved in rural fire fighting activities shall comply with the requirements of the National Rural Fire Authority Training and Personal Protective Clothing Standards.

All hazards are to be recorded in the hazard register and the DPRFO or PRFO advised.

All fire equipment is inspected and tested to NRFA requirements using an external contractor. The PRFO shall carry out a station inspection at least twice annually to ensure standards are maintained.

A Safety Advisor will be appointed at all incidents. This position may be held in conjunction with another command role at small incidents but safety must become a separate function at larger incidents.

The RFA shall adhere to work rest guidelines issued by the NRFA in 2005. This requires a 2:1 work to rest ratio be maintained and it is of particular relevance where personnel work more than twelve hours continuously at the commencement of an incident.

Wherever a vehicle and crew have been operating for twelve hours a fresh driver must be allocated to return the crew to station.

All accidents are to be investigated and documented as required by Council Policy.

[Refer Regulation 46(2)(a)]

5.7 Victim Support and Crisis Management

The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority has general policies and procedures regarding the use of victim support and crisis management services in emergencies that are applicable in the case of rural fire incidents.

Details of welfare support provided are included in section 4.4.10 Welfare Support. In all its operations the Wairoa Rural Fire Authority also complies with the requirements of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992.

5.8 Fire Investigations

All fires will be investigated by Council Rural Fire Officers or by a contracted investigator as required to determine probable cause and liability. The Fire Investigation Form included in Annex 13 will be used for all fires that may result in a claim on the Rural Fire Fighting Fund, or for fires that result in a reimbursement of suppression costs.

Council will endeavour to recover all fire suppression costs for all fires where liability can be determined pursuant to Section 43 Forest & Rural Fires Act 1977, or impose a levy pursuant to Section 46 when appropriate.

The Principal Rural Fire Officer may initiate prosecution action for cost recovery or for offences as required.

5.8.1 Post Fire Investigations [Cause]

The origin and cause of all fires will be investigated. When necessary to determine origin and cause or when thresholds imposed by the NRFA are reached a skilled NRFA approved fire investigator will be engaged.

The area of origin of any fire must be secured and protected until the fire investigator deems otherwise. Investigations will comply with NRFA circular 2010/09

[Refer Regulation 46(2)(d)]

5.8.2 Operational Debriefs

Debriefs should be seen as an opportunity to self examine and review the events of an incident. Through discussion with those involved an overall perspective of the operation can be gained. This provides an opportunity to evaluate the practices and procedures involved and make recommendations for improvement where required. The debrief process is a fact finding exercise that should be both constructive and positive.

The Wairoa RFA will comply with national debrief guidelines developed by the NRFA.

[Refer Regulation 46(2)(c)]

5.8.3 Operational Reviews [Full Audit]

The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority is committed to maintaining effective and efficient fire suppression operations. To measure this, Council has a policy for the conducting of Operational Incident Audits on fires within its jurisdiction.

The criteria for conducting an incident audit are:

- Incidents causing significant loss to a community, e.g. property, heritage, environmental, or financial;
- When determined as appropriate by the Principal Rural Fire Officer or Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer; or
- When the Principal Rural Fire Officer considers that the outcome of such an audit will benefit the wider emergency management community.

The audit shall be conducted by a team comprised of a minimum of three members drawn from:

- Wairoa Rural Fire Authority Principal Rural Fire Officer
- Senior Fire Service Officer; and
- Experienced Rural Fire Manager from another organisation.

(Note: The Incident Controller of the fire being audited is to be excluded);

The audit team shall work within the terms of reference produced by the person requesting the audit. The audit team shall produce a report that is compatible with the format developed by the National Rural Fire Authority, containing the following elements:

- Incident overview;
- Executive summary;
- Fire ground operations;
- Associated costs;
- Safety aspects;

- Accidents & injuries;
- Fire cause investigation issues;
- Environmental issues;
- Other issues arising;
- Conclusions; and
- Recommendations.

[Refer Regulation 46(2)(b)]

Part Six – Administrative

6 Administrative Section

This section sets out those administrative matters, which enables Wairoa District Council to operate as a safe, effective and efficient rural fire authority.

6.1 Committee Membership

Regulation 42(2)(d) of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005 requires the Rural Fire Authority to note in its Rural Fire Plan details in the case of a Rural Fire Committee the membership and a copy of the rules of the Rural Fire Committee.

Wairoa District Council is a local authority and not a Rural Fire Committee; therefore such information is not included in this Fire Plan.

[Refer Regulation 42(2)(d)]

6.1.1 Regional Rural Fire Committee

As noted in section 6.7 Statement of Intent the Wairoa District Council is a member of the Eastern Rural Fire Committee.

6.1.2 Forestry District Committees

There are no forestry committees within the Wairoa District Rural Fire area. Emergency Management Group Representation

As a requirement of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, Wairoa District Council is a member of the HB CDEM Group. It is also a member of the Hawke's Bay Co-ordinating Executive Group. The Principal Rural Fire Officer is the Council's representative on the Co-ordinating Executive Group.

Rural Fire interests are represented on the Hawke's Bay Co-ordinating Executive Group by the Secretary of the Eastern Rural Fire Committee.

6.2 Financial Arrangements

Emergency Management (Administration) shall include estimated fire suppression costs in its annual budget submissions to Council for retention as a fire fighting contingency fund once approved.

Council policy is to recover all fair and reasonable costs for any of the services it provides to the Wairoa District. This includes securing full cost recovery for fire suppression activities pursuant to Sections 43 and 46 of the Forest & Rural Fires Act 1977.

Charge rates for fire suppression equipment will be aligned to those set by the National Rural Fire Authority when approving grant assistance for claims against the Rural Fire Fighting Fund.

Prosecution action may be pursued as directed by the PRFO for the recovery of costs or for dealing with offences.

6.3 Insurance Provisions

Council maintains insurance to cover the following as part of its responsibilities:

- Emergency contingencies arising from impacts of any disasters;
- Replacement of all critical community assets; and
- Compensation to its staff should an accident or injury occur.

6.4 Delegated Authority

As noted in Section 3.5.1 Appointments the Wairoa District Council has delegated full powers to its appointed Rural Fire Officers to perform their duties pursuant to Section 36 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act.

Wairoa District Council has also delegated authority to the Principal Rural Fire Officer to make amendments to the Annexes of this Fire Plan, where those amendments are considered of a minor nature and do not significantly affect the policies of the Council.

6.5 Confidentiality of Information

Regulation 42 of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005 specify the matters that must be contained in this Fire Plan relating to Readiness. However Regulation 42(3) notes that information relating to personnel information is not required to be included in the public copies of this Fire Plan. For this reason all public information relating to fire force crews has been removed from the public version of this Fire Plan.

6.6 Memorandums of Understanding

In order to maintain an efficient response to fire incidents, Wairoa District Council Rural Fire District has Memorandums of Understanding with:

- Bay Forest Rural Fire District
- Eastland Rural Fire District
- Department of Conservation

Details of agreements are attached as Annex 7: Rural Fire Force Agreements.

6.7 Statement of Intent

The Wairoa Rural Fire Authority is signatory to a Statement of Intent with the Eastern Regional Rural Fire Committee. The Members of this Committee consisting of:

- National Rural Fire Authority;
- Gisborne District Council;
- Wairoa District Council;
- Napier City Council;
- Central Hawke's Bay District Council;
- Department of Conservation Rural Fire Authority;
- Bay Forests Rural Fire District; and
- Eastland Rural Fire District.

6.8 Review of Rural Fire Plan

Regulation 40 of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005 specify the timeframes in which this Fire Plan must be reviewed.

6.8.1 Readiness and Response Sections

In accordance with Regulation 40(1)(a) the sections of this Fire Plan dealing with Readiness, and Response will be reviewed within two years after the date of adoption.

6.8.2 Reduction and Recovery Sections

In accordance with Regulation 40(1)(b) the sections of this Fire Plan dealing with Reduction, and Recovery will be reviewed within five years after the date of adoption.