



Rural Fire Plan

2015

Authorisation

This plan has been prepared, is consistent with, and meets the requirements of the Forest and Rural Fire Regulations 2005 for the Whangarei District Council as the Rural Fire Authority.

Signed: _____

Chief Executive Officer

Date: _____

16/1/15

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Introduction

The Whangarei District Council is the Fire Authority for its jurisdictional area as prescribed by Section 10 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977. This Act is described as:

“An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the safeguarding of life and property by the prevention, detection, control, restriction, suppression and extinction of fire in forest and rural areas and other areas of vegetation.”

The Act bestows certain responsibilities and powers on the Fire Authority. One of the duties of a Rural Fire Authority is to keep and maintain a rural fire plan in the prescribed format, and to make this plan available for public viewing. This plan is to fulfil that duty and to comply with Sections 39 to 46 of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005.

Description of the District

The Whangarei District Council jurisdiction comprises a total area of approximately 271,000 hectares including several small islands in the Whangarei harbour. Within this area there is approximately 8,833 hectares of “Urban Fire District” under the control of the New Zealand Fire Service and approx 92,926 hectares of crown land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation. This leaves a balance of 169,241 hectares of land administered by the Whangarei District Council for the purposes of fire control.

The district has a mix of scrubland, pastoral, forestry and residential lifestyle areas including several rapidly growing coastal communities.

The fire danger levels in the district can reach “extreme”. These extreme periods generally occur in late summer and tend not be prolonged due to regular autumn/winter rain.

Due to consistent rainfall in the winter and spring, vegetation growth rates are high contributing to very high fuel loading in scrubland and forest areas. These areas could cause extreme fire behaviour and prove very difficult to control in times of elevated fire danger.

The district has two Volunteer Rural Fire Forces constituted under Section 36 of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005. These forces are located at Whananaki and Maungakaramea. These forces provide an immediate response to their surrounding areas and are able to assist with fire control anywhere within the district.

A Principal Rural Fire Officer (PRFO) is employed as a contractor and reports to the Emergency Management Officer of the Whangarei District Council. The PRFO is responsible for carrying out the fire control functions of the district including response to fire incidents.

Reduction

This section of the plan details policies and procedures to reduce the likelihood and consequences of rural fire in the district.

The objective of this section is:

“To reduce the threat of human caused and naturally occurring fires through public education, risk management and fire engineering practices.”

Risk and Hazard Management Strategy

The Whangarei District Council has carried out a “Wildfire Threat Analysis” of the district, this analysis did not identify any significant areas of threat with a score greater than 600, therefore no specific risk planning is required by NRFA, however specific risk planning and mitigation may be carried out in areas considered at risk for other reasons

Wildfire Threat analysis will be updated and reviewed every ten years, with the first review due 2024.

Upon completion of the review any high risk areas will be assessed and if appropriate mitigation and response plans will be developed.

Outcomes of Risk and Hazard Strategy

1. Fire Prevention Planning

Fire prevention plans will be formulated for areas identified as “at risk”. These plans will include the following:

1. Records of buildings identified and any special issues resulting from those inspections.
2. Details of hazard reduction activities that can be carried out by residents.
3. Details of hazard reduction activities to be carried out on public lands.
4. Special restrictions or procedures for the use of fire as a tool.
5. Details of education and awareness programs to be carried out.

It is important that these plans be directed to areas of highest threat first

2. Public Education Activities

Public education is seen as a very important component of fire prevention and such the Whangarei District Council will undertake the following activities, in addition to anything identified in the risk and hazard management strategy:

6. Develop and display fire awareness messages in a variety of media in a consistent format to link into the “Having a Fire” website.
7. Direct all publicity to the website as a source of information.
8. Advertise rural fire season status in local newspapers for at least one week whenever rural fire season status changes.
9. Erect and maintain standard “grapefruit” fire danger signs in accordance with the policy detailed in section 3 of this plan.
10. Rural fire matters will be promoted at council “Expo” and any other appropriate council functions.
11. Press releases will be made by the PRFO following notable fires or at times of elevated fire danger; these press releases will be circulated by the Council’s Media Communications Manager and will include relevant fire safety messages.
12. Information pamphlets will be sent out with any rural fire permit documentation to applicants, where possible.

3. Register of Commercial Buildings

As required by NRFA standards a list of identified buildings meeting criteria set by NRFA was supplied to the New Zealand Fire Service. The risk associated with each building was considered and risk plans developed for high risk buildings. The register of these buildings is attached as Appendix 3.

4. Signage

All fire signage erected in the district must comply with NRFA Circular 2006/09, attached as appendix 1.

Approved “grapefruit” signs will be erected near fire stations and high-risk areas where volunteers are available to change the indicators as required. In addition to these signs a “grapefruit” sign is erected on Western Hills Drive to target visitors coming north along SH 1. The indicators will be set according to instructions from the PRFO. In determining the settings for the sign the PRFO will consider the current and predicted drought and build up indices of the fire weather system. The signs are to be set to reflect weekly conditions and are to be updated prior to weekends wherever practicable.

In accordance with the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations, Section 52, standard signs will be erected in times of fire restrictions or prohibition. These signs will be erected at all main roads into the district and areas identified by fire forces and fire officers as high profile, fire prone areas. The placement of signs will be reviewed prior to erecting signs.

All fire restriction signs erected will have their location recorded for future retrieval and will be removed or changed within 2 days of a change of fire season status. Wherever possible signs will be erected immediately prior to the season coming into force.

5. Fire as a Tool

The Whangarei District Council recognises that fire is a legitimate land management tool when used safely and with consideration to environmental effects.

In order to actively manage this process Whangarei District Council will in addition to anything identified in the risk and hazard management strategy:

1. Operate a system of fire restrictions through open, restricted and prohibited fire seasons. These are designed to control lighting of fire in times of elevated fire danger while making provision for legitimate use of fire for land development and cultural purposes.
2. Provide advice to landowners and residents regarding the safe use of fire.
3. Monitor fire danger levels and weather and climate forecasts.
4. Operate a system to issue fire permits during restricted fire seasons.
5. Operate a system to issue special permits during prohibited fire seasons.

6. Investigation and Enforcement Activities

Public education and awareness is seen as preferable to any enforcement activity, but in serious cases such as repeat offenders or potentially dangerous situations enforcement will be used as a deterrent. Prosecution can be brought under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005 and the Fire Prevention Bylaw 1992 and any subsequent amendments. The prosecution process will be driven by the PRFO.

A probable cause of fire is to be determined for all fire incidents. The first responding Rural Fire Officer will be responsible for determining a probable cause for all fires. If they are unable to determine a cause for any reason the PRFO or DPRFO will be notified and action is to be taken to source outside assistance to further the investigation.

The PRFO will determine the cause of all fires resulting in a claim on the Rural Fire fighting fund or where cost recovery is possible from any party.

If a formal investigation report is required for legal purposes an independent fire investigator is to be appointed to assist the PRFO.

Investigations will comply with the requirements of NRFA policy.

Fire Season and Restrictions

In accordance with Section 22 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 the Whangarei District Council will implement Open, Restricted and Prohibited fire seasons to control the lighting of fires in the open air.

The build up index (BUI) of the New Zealand Fire Danger Rating System will be the main driver in the decision to impose restrictions, however other factors such as time of year, forecast weather and climate conditions, all other indices and codes of the New Zealand Fire Danger Rating System will also be considered as to their effect on fire behaviour and likely development.

The following BUI levels are to be used as a guide to imposing the various fire seasons:

BUI	Season
0 to 60	Open
60 to 100	Restricted
Greater than 100	Prohibited

The PRFO may decide not to implement a Prohibited season, but instead to stop the issue of permits in a Restricted season. This decision would be made when it was expected that fire danger levels were likely to reduce in the foreseeable future and a Prohibited season is not practicable. A permanent Prohibited season has been declared for Limestone and Rabbit Islands in the Whangarei Harbour. This has been undertaken to protect sensitive ecological areas and will remain in force until further notice. Signs to this effect will be permanently erected on the Islands.

During an Open season fires in the open may be lit providing they do not present any danger of escape or cause any damage. All fires must comply with the Whangarei District Council Fire Prevention Bylaw 2005 and any provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991. NRC air quality

Permits are not required for traditional cooking fires such as hangi, umu and spit roasting providing the conditions applicable to "Minor Fire Permits" are adhered to at all times. The fire must only burn for the time required for the cooking process and must be extinguished immediately the cooking process is completed. At any time the fire may be extinguished at the request of a fire officer.

Permit Issue System

During a Restricted fire season permits will be issued by Forest Protection Services, as contracted, on behalf of Whangarei District Council.

The issuing of a fire permit does not in any way absolve the applicant from any liability arising from lighting the fire and all care must be taken to keep the fire under control.

Any person breaching the conditions of their permit may be liable for prosecution. All permits must be produced on demand by a Fire Officer (Rural Fire Officer, New Zealand Fire Service Officer, or a Police Officer).

The public will be able to apply for a permit online at www.havingafire.co.nz or by phoning Forest Protection Services on 09 430 7707 between the hours of 9am and 4pm weekdays. Fire season status can be checked at the www.havingafire.co.nz website.

Permits will be issued for two different classes of fires in the open air:

Minor fires

Fires that meet predetermined conditions can be issued with a permit without a site visit and the permit will be posted or faxed to the applicant.

Permit Conditions for Minor Fires

Permits for minor fires will only be issued if all the following criteria can be met:

1. Fire must be under 2x2 metres.
2. There must be at least 5 metres cleared of combustible materials around the fire site.
3. There must be a minimum of 1 garden hose available to control any "break-out" fires (except for non-reticulated areas).
4. Fires in non-reticulated areas must have shovels for the minimum required man power, and a pressurised water source e.g., spray unit, in case of any "break-out" fires.

5. In all cases a minimum of 2 people must be in attendance at the fire site during burning.
6. All fires are to be completely extinguished before being left unattended and a check made that they have not re-ignited 30 minutes later.
7. No fire shall be lit or allowed to burn within 100m of any bush, scrub, forest, or reserve.

Examples of minor fires requiring a permit include:

- an incinerator to burn rubbish (unless the incinerator has been approved by a Rural Fire Officer)
- small rubbish fires
- farm fire in a paddock.
- Small piles of tree trimmings

These fires are defined as fires in the “open air” under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977.

Large fires

Fires that do not meet the predetermined criteria for minor fires will require a site visit from an authorised Rural Fire Officer and will require a full burn plan to be lodged with the permit application. The burn plan must be completed by the owner or an appointed agent, at the owners' expense.

Due to the elevated fire danger during any Restricted fire season a high level of care and protection will need to be demonstrated in any burn plan. Applications for permits for large fires will be declined if the PRFO deems that the fire can reasonably be conducted outside the Restricted season.

Example Burn Plan for Major Fires

The following information may be required in a burn plan. Due to the variable nature of fire environment factors for any fire, more information may be required.

1. Owner details including address, and other contact details.
2. Area (ha), fuel type and preparation.
3. Topography and fuel on surrounding areas.
4. No of personnel and how they are to be deployed.
5. Fire equipment at burn and how it is to be deployed.
6. Width and state of firebreaks.
7. Waterpoint location and capacity.
8. Reserve personnel, equipment and location.
9. Communications with personnel and outside agencies.
10. Weather forecast arrangements.
11. Desired prescription regarding weather conditions.
12. Date and start time.
13. Description of light up pattern.
14. Special arrangements to cover areas of high risk.
15. Weather conditions that would preclude burning.

16. Exact location including map reference.

General conditions for all fire permits

All fire permits issued are subject to the following general conditions:

1. "Open air", in relation to fires, means otherwise than within:
 - (a) A fireplace (including any enclosed fireproof place or incinerator for combustion by fire) constructed and maintained in a dwelling or other structure or in any other place to the approval of the public or local authority having jurisdiction to issue the relevant permit to build such dwelling or structure or to authorise the construction or installation of the fireplace; or
 - (b) An incinerator operated by or with the written approval of the Director-General of Conservation or of a Fire Officer having jurisdiction to issue permits to light fires within the relevant district within which the State area is situated; or
 - (c) Any barbecue, whether fixed or portable,
 - (i) Which is of a type or construction prescribed by regulations under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 or authorised, specifically or generally, by the Fire Officer or Chief Fire Officer within whose jurisdiction the barbecue is to be used; and
 - (ii) Which is used in any area so prescribed or authorised.
 - (d) Such other receptacle or place as may from time to time be authorised by the Fire Authority for the relevant District or be prescribed.
2. Do not light up in a strong wind or in conditions likely to spread the fire or to present a fire hazard (including an adverse long-range weather forecast). Check the weather forecast.
3. Patrol the fire until completely out or cannot spread.
4. PERMITS ARE SUSPENDED by fire hazard emergency warnings or orders prohibiting all open air fires. Check by radio, or ring the Fire Authority. If fire is essential for emergency (e.g., stock disease) at such times, seek a "special permit".
5. A written permit must be produced on demand by a member of Police or a Fire Officer.
6. If no permit can be produced on demand, the fire will be extinguished and the person in control of the fire may be liable for prosecution and/or fire control costs and damages.

Forest Areas

There are no forest areas registered with the Whangarei District Council under Section 17 of the Forest and Rural fires Act 1977 therefore there are no corresponding safety margins or a register of forest areas.

Bylaws

This fire plan must be read in conjunction with the Whangarei District Fire Prevention Bylaw 2005, attached as Appendix 5.

Other Policies and Legislation Regarding Rural Fire

Policies and legislation other than the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 have an impact on the management of rural fire within the district, and a brief outline of the documents and their main effects are listed below.

Fire Service Act 1975

Establishes the National Rural Fire Authority and outlines its functions and powers.

Local Government Act 2002

Covers removal of fire hazards from properties. Identified or reported fire hazards may be dealt with under this legislation.

Resource Management Act 1991

The Regional Air Quality Plan was developed in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991. This plan sets out rules for all discharges to the atmosphere including smoke from fires. Any complaints of smoke nuisance will be dealt with under this plan.

Health Act 1956

The Regional Air Quality Plan Section 6.4.2 states that a smoke nuisance will be managed by the District Council in accordance with the Health Act 1956.

Health and Safety in Employment Act

All Council staff and volunteers are classed as employees for the purposes of this act and must operate in accordance with all policies and procedures developed by the Whangarei District Council as the employer.

Forest and Rural Fire Regulations 2005

These regulations set out the detail of how the Forest and Rural Fires Act is to be implemented.

Civil Defence Emergency Management Act

This act states that Council must identify and reduce those risks to which its community is exposed to. This process must be done in consultation with the community so that they are fully involved in the risk management process.

National Rural Fire Authority Standards and Policies

The National Rural Fire Authority is tasked with establishing standards of performance for Rural Fire Authorities and for monitoring performance against these standards. These National Rural Fire Authority standards and policies are to be incorporated into all operating procedures and policies adopted by the Whangarei District Council.

Whangarei District Council VRRF Constitutions.

These documents outline the operating and administrative procedures and structures for Volunteer Rural Fire Forces and set out the terms under which the fire force operates.

Whangarei District Council Instructions and Operating Procedures

Whangarei District Council will from time to time promulgate operating procedures and instructions to staff and volunteers. These instructions are to be followed at all times.

Readiness

This section of the plan details policy and procedures in relation to preparing for a fire fighting event.

The objective of this section is to:

“Monitor fire danger and to prepare appropriate resources and systems to mount an effective and safe response to a fire incident.”

Maps

A map detailing Fire District boundaries etc is attached as Appendix 2.

These maps will be reviewed annually to determine if they display all current jurisdictional boundaries. This will be checked against latest GIS information from the New Zealand Fire Service and any published gazette notices.

The GIS department of Whangarei District Council will maintain this information.

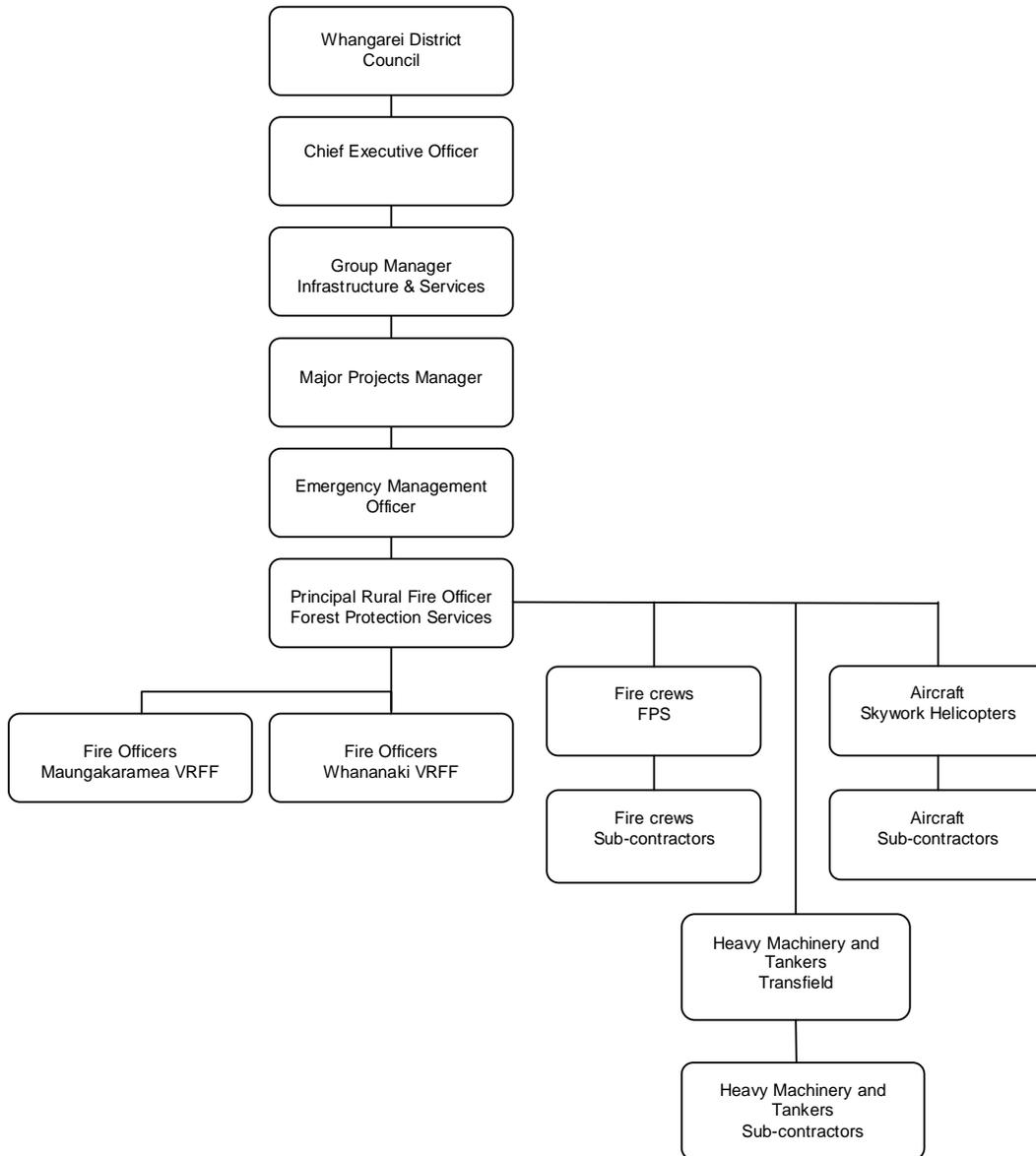
Protection Works

Any areas requiring protection works will be considered on a case by case basis. If the PRFO decides that protection works are desirable the landowner/occupier will be consulted as to options available including costs.

If no agreement can be reached the PRFO will consider using legislative powers to enforce the works.

Responsibilities and Chain of Command

Administrative Structure



The Whangarei District Council as the Fire Authority adopts policies to be implemented to discharge their statutory responsibilities. The Chief Executive ensures that Whangarei District Council staff and contractors put these policies and subsequent procedures into practice.

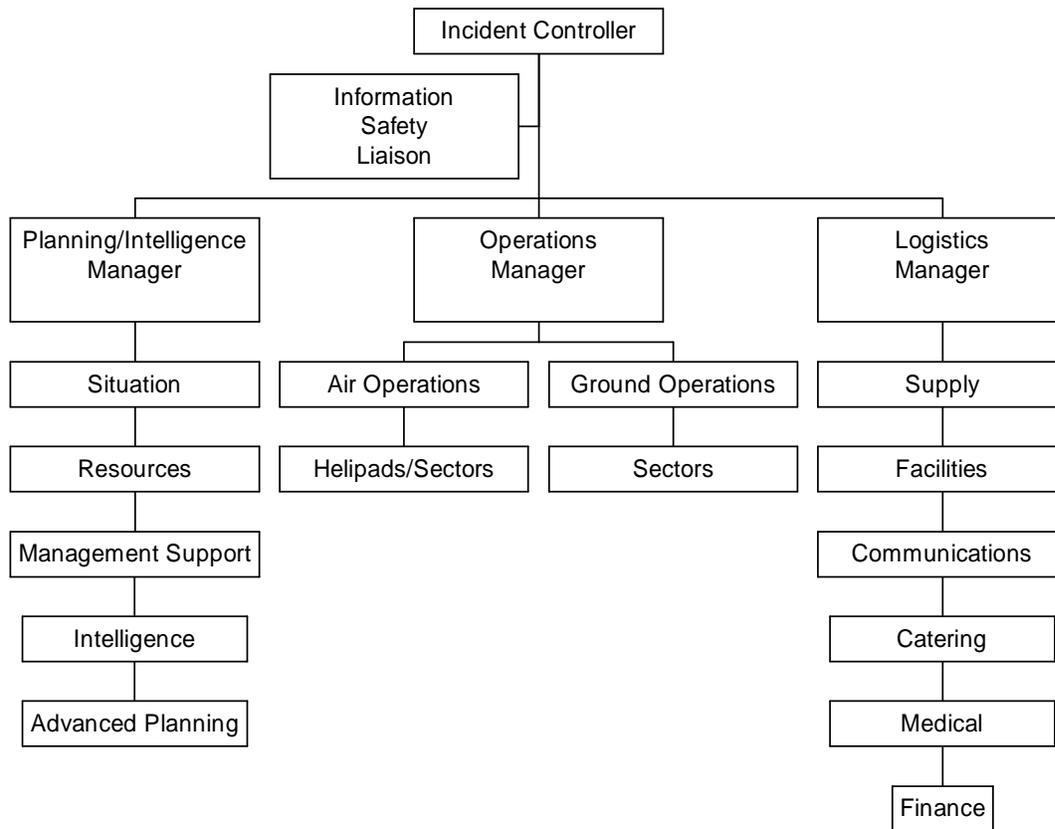
The Whangarei District Council has contracted delivery of day to day functions to Forest Protection Services Trust and appointed Kevin Ihaka as Principal Rural Fire Officer. This contract is managed by the Emergency Management Officer.

Operational Structure

The CIMS (Coordinated Incident Management System) structure as detailed in the CIMS manual will be implemented for all fires.

The following structure is to be used at large scale incidents, this structure will be scaled down according to the size of any fire and the amount of support required by operations.

CIMS Structure



Fire Officers

The following Rural Fire Officers have been appointed under the Forest and Rural fires Act 1977.

- Principal Rural Fire Officer** Kevin Ihaka
- Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer** Michael Sullivan
- Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer** Trevor Bullock
- Rural Fire Officers**
 - Paul Mosely
 - Mark Arrowsmith
 - Larry Purdie
 - Brian Meadows
 - Mark Montgomery
 - Murray Johnstone

Training

Training for fire response crews will be coordinated by the PRFO and will, where ever possible, be delivered to NZQA unit standard levels.

Training programs will be designed to ensure that all response staff are training towards unit standards applicable to the tasks that they are required to carry out. The PRFO will ensure all response staff will participate in Fire and Rescue Services Training Organisation (Emqual) training.

All response staff will hold, or be under the supervision of someone who holds, Unit Standard 3285, Protect Personal Safety at Vegetation Fires and will comply with NRFA training standards.

Volunteer Rural Fire Forces undertake training as part of their routine operations. Detailed records of this training must be kept by the Fire Force in a format prescribed by the PRFO. These records must be available for audit on request.

If no qualified staff are available to fill any position a lesser qualified person may be appointed if measures are in place to support that person in their role and a plan is adopted that will ensure that training and assessment take place as soon as practicable.

Health and Safety

All members of Volunteer Rural Fire Forces are deemed to be employees for the purposes of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 and as such are subject to all aspects of the Whangarei District Council Health and Safety Policy.

All personnel attending fires shall hold unit standard 3285 Protect personal safety at vegetation fires, or be under the supervision of someone who holds the unit.

Personnel are to be deployed in accordance with NRFA circular 2005/2 Work/Rest and length of assignment guidelines for rural fire fighting operations. Any deviation from this guideline must be approved by the PRFO or the Emergency Management Officer. These guidelines are attached as Appendix 4.

Regular fitness and medical testing will be encouraged on a voluntary basis.

All accidents, incidents and near misses must be recorded as stipulated in the Whangarei District Council Health and Safety Policy.

Fire Fighting Resources

The following section details fire fighting resources and personnel immediately available to Whangarei District Council in the event of a fire.

Resources Available for Immediate Response

Rural Fire Officers

Position	Name	Contact Details
Principal Rural Fire Officer	Kevin Ihaka	09 430 7707 Work 09 437 6580 Home 021 798 177 Mobile 026 105 816 FPS group pager
Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer	Mike Sullivan	09 430 7707 Work 09 435 5219 Home 021 575 204 Mobile 026 105 816 FPS group pager
Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer	Trevor Bullock	09 430 7707 Work 09 430 7707 Work 021 575 383 Mobile 026 105 816 FPS group pager
Maungakarema		
Rural Fire Officer	Mark Montgomery	09 438 0552 Work 09 432 3841 Home 0274 782 317 Mobile

Position	Name	Contact Details
Rural Fire Officer	Murray Johnstone	09 4596074 Work 09 432 3886 Home 021 108 4768 Mobile
Rural Fire Officer	Chris Newson	027 543 3618
Whananaki		
Rural Fire Officer	Mark Arrowsmith	09 433 8005 Home 021 567 633 Mobile
Rural Fire Officer	Paul Mosely	09 433 8242

Personnel

Name (Approx No of personnel)	Telephone A/H	Mobile	Pager	Call Sign
Forest Protection Services (40)	09 430 7707		026 105 816 Group call all staff	FPS Base
Incident control point, satellite	09 929 9354			
Kevin Ihaka	09 437 6580	021 798 177	026105816	FPS 1 Whang RFO1
Mike Sullivan	09 435 5219	021 575 204	026 105816	FPS 2 Whang RFO2
Trevor Bullock	09 4376 538	021 575 383	026 105816	FPS 3 Whang RFO3
Kylie Ihaka	09 437 6580	021 856 211	026 105 816	
Rob Clarke	09 4207433	021 570 135	026 105 816	FPS 4
Maungakaramea RFF (12)				
Appliance 2171		027 4548674		MGK 2171
Appliance 2172		0274548672		MGK 2172
Murray Johnstone	09 432 3886	021 108 4768		
Mark Montgomery	438 0552 Work 432 3841 Home	0274 782 317		
Whananaki RFF (12)				
Appliance 6171		027 4548676		Whn 6171
Mark Arrowsmith	09 433 8005	021 567 633		
Paul Mosley	09 433 8242			

Diggers, Dozers and Transporters and Water Tankers

Transfield Services are contracted to supply all heavy machinery and bulk tankers and operate under a contract with Forest Protection Services. Wherever Transfield cannot provide equipment within acceptable

time frames they have engaged subcontractors to provide services. All requests for machinery and bulk tankers are to be directed to Transfield Services.

Name	Contact
George Dods	021 986 074
Shane King	021 801 972

Fuel Supplies

Fuel can be obtained from contractors and reimbursed after fire, records must be kept. Fuel can also be obtained using fuel cards from fire appliances.

Aviation fuel to be supplied by Skywork.

Fuel for an extended campaign phone Minitankers 0800 111 666.

Helicopters

Restricted category Aircraft shall not be used to transport personnel (other than employees of the aircraft operator) unless no other aircraft is available and the flight is necessary to prevent serious harm to life or property. Restricted category aircraft should not be first response to any incident.

All initial requests for aircraft are to be directed to Skywork Helicopters contact via United Security on (09) 470 0486 (24 hrs). Firecom

Requests for controlled airspace should be made on the standard CAA forms available through Skywork Helicopters.

Skywork Helicopters are contracted via Forest protection Services to provide all aircraft and air support resources; in the event that Skywork cannot provide the appropriate response they will subcontract the appropriate resource.



SKYWORK 24/7 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONTACT DETAILS

CALL HEAD OFFICE **+64 9 422 7018** for AIRCRAFT DISPATCH or CALL FIRE-COMMS **+64 9 486 7948** to ACTIVATE COMPANY PERSONNEL PAGERS

	WARKWORTH BASE Hangar 255 Baddelays Beach Road, RD6, Warkworth 0986 www.skyworkhelicopters.com P: +64 9 422 7018, F: +64 9 422 7064, E: skywork@skyworkhelicopters.com	WHANGAREI BASE: Hangar Onerahi Airport, Handforth St, Whangarei 0110 www.skyworkhelicopters.com P: +64 9 436 5155, F: +64 9 436 5010 E: skywork@skyworkhelicopters.com	THAMES BASE: Hangar Thames Airfield, Main Road, Thames 3576 www.skyworkhelicopters.com P: +64 7 868 6100, F: +64 7 868 6204 E: skywork@skyworkhelicopters.com	NELSON MAINTENANCE BASE: Hangar 184 Cable Bay Road, Hira, Nelson www.skyworkhelicopters.com P: +64 21 276 0005, F: +64 3 545 0098 E: skywork@skyworkhelicopters.com			
	CONTACT NUMBERS	AIRCRAFT TYPE & MAX LIFT	FIRE BUCKET CAPACITY	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT			
PILOTS:	CALL SIGN	Passengers	NGVC	EFB			
Roger Stevenson CAA # 21527 Mob: 021 276 0040 Mob: 0274 785 804 Pager: 0865 07 512	SKYWORK 1	ZK - HUU AS350B3 1400kg (winch capabilities)	1300litrs	3 x Bambi buckets (2600 litres) 2 x Bambi Bucket (1400 litres) 4 x Bambi Buckets (1000 litres) 1 x Bambi Bucket (860 litres) 1 x Bambi Bucket (600 litres) 3 x Monsoon Buckets(950 litres) 1 x Monsoon Bucket (550 litres) 1 x Collapsible Dew Drop Bucket (900 litres) 5 x 45 litre Class A Sacksa Foam Dispensers 2 x 45 litre Class A C-DAX Foam Dispensers 1 x Class A Sacksa Foam Dispenser 3 x 1900 litre Mini Tankers Jet A1, 11 x 1100 litre Fuel Cubes 1 x 4000 litre Water Tank 4 x 12000 litre Water Tanker incl 2400 litre Jet A1 2 x 5000 litre Portable Dam 4 x Weather Stations (portable) 1 x 6m x 6m x 400mm Enviro Containment Fuel Spill Centre 1 x High Pressure Javelin Water Lance 1 x 450lb W/inch 1 x Helisaw 1 x Infra red camera 1 x UV camera 1 x High Definition Gimbal Camera 1 x 32' Trailer (Mobile Office/Work Shop) 1 x 10 place Carousel Hook	Y	Y	6
Remco Coentra CAA # 62750 Mob: 021 276 0057 Pager: 0865 07 514	SKYWORK 2	ZK - HQQ AS350BA 907kg	800litrs	1 x Collapsible Dew Drop Bucket (900 litres) 5 x 45 litre Class A Sacksa Foam Dispensers 2 x 45 litre Class A C-DAX Foam Dispensers 1 x Class A Sacksa Foam Dispenser 3 x 1900 litre Mini Tankers Jet A1, 11 x 1100 litre Fuel Cubes 1 x 4000 litre Water Tank 4 x 12000 litre Water Tanker incl 2400 litre Jet A1 2 x 5000 litre Portable Dam 4 x Weather Stations (portable) 1 x 6m x 6m x 400mm Enviro Containment Fuel Spill Centre 1 x High Pressure Javelin Water Lance 1 x 450lb W/inch 1 x Helisaw 1 x Infra red camera 1 x UV camera 1 x High Definition Gimbal Camera 1 x 32' Trailer (Mobile Office/Work Shop) 1 x 10 place Carousel Hook	Y	Y	6
Caleb Greene CAA #67450 Mob: 021 276 0049 Pager: 0865 07 546	SKYWORK 3	ZK - HQR Bell 206 500kg	450litrs	1 x Collapsible Dew Drop Bucket (900 litres) 5 x 45 litre Class A Sacksa Foam Dispensers 2 x 45 litre Class A C-DAX Foam Dispensers 1 x Class A Sacksa Foam Dispenser 3 x 1900 litre Mini Tankers Jet A1, 11 x 1100 litre Fuel Cubes 1 x 4000 litre Water Tank 4 x 12000 litre Water Tanker incl 2400 litre Jet A1 2 x 5000 litre Portable Dam 4 x Weather Stations (portable) 1 x 6m x 6m x 400mm Enviro Containment Fuel Spill Centre 1 x High Pressure Javelin Water Lance 1 x 450lb W/inch 1 x Helisaw 1 x Infra red camera 1 x UV camera 1 x High Definition Gimbal Camera 1 x 32' Trailer (Mobile Office/Work Shop) 1 x 10 place Carousel Hook	N	N	4
Ben Fry CAA # 55038 Mob: 021 276 0054 Pager: 0865 07 516	SKYWORK 4	ZK - HWW AS350BA 907kg	800litrs	1 x Collapsible Dew Drop Bucket (900 litres) 5 x 45 litre Class A Sacksa Foam Dispensers 2 x 45 litre Class A C-DAX Foam Dispensers 1 x Class A Sacksa Foam Dispenser 3 x 1900 litre Mini Tankers Jet A1, 11 x 1100 litre Fuel Cubes 1 x 4000 litre Water Tank 4 x 12000 litre Water Tanker incl 2400 litre Jet A1 2 x 5000 litre Portable Dam 4 x Weather Stations (portable) 1 x 6m x 6m x 400mm Enviro Containment Fuel Spill Centre 1 x High Pressure Javelin Water Lance 1 x 450lb W/inch 1 x Helisaw 1 x Infra red camera 1 x UV camera 1 x High Definition Gimbal Camera 1 x 32' Trailer (Mobile Office/Work Shop) 1 x 10 place Carousel Hook	Y	Y	6
Greg Stevenson Mob: 021 276 0075	SKYWORK 5	ZK - HLT Hughes 269C 275kg	200litrs	1 x Collapsible Dew Drop Bucket (900 litres) 5 x 45 litre Class A Sacksa Foam Dispensers 2 x 45 litre Class A C-DAX Foam Dispensers 1 x Class A Sacksa Foam Dispenser 3 x 1900 litre Mini Tankers Jet A1, 11 x 1100 litre Fuel Cubes 1 x 4000 litre Water Tank 4 x 12000 litre Water Tanker incl 2400 litre Jet A1 2 x 5000 litre Portable Dam 4 x Weather Stations (portable) 1 x 6m x 6m x 400mm Enviro Containment Fuel Spill Centre 1 x High Pressure Javelin Water Lance 1 x 450lb W/inch 1 x Helisaw 1 x Infra red camera 1 x UV camera 1 x High Definition Gimbal Camera 1 x 32' Trailer (Mobile Office/Work Shop) 1 x 10 place Carousel Hook	N	N	1
Remote Location Fuel Storage:		ZK - HZZ AS355N Twin 1400kg	1100litrs	1 x Collapsible Dew Drop Bucket (900 litres) 5 x 45 litre Class A Sacksa Foam Dispensers 2 x 45 litre Class A C-DAX Foam Dispensers 1 x Class A Sacksa Foam Dispenser 3 x 1900 litre Mini Tankers Jet A1, 11 x 1100 litre Fuel Cubes 1 x 4000 litre Water Tank 4 x 12000 litre Water Tanker incl 2400 litre Jet A1 2 x 5000 litre Portable Dam 4 x Weather Stations (portable) 1 x 6m x 6m x 400mm Enviro Containment Fuel Spill Centre 1 x High Pressure Javelin Water Lance 1 x 450lb W/inch 1 x Helisaw 1 x Infra red camera 1 x UV camera 1 x High Definition Gimbal Camera 1 x 32' Trailer (Mobile Office/Work Shop) 1 x 10 place Carousel Hook	Y	Y	5
DOC	Great Barrier Island		1000 Litres				
JNL	Northland		3300 Litres				
DOC	Motutapu Island		1000 Litres				
DOC	Coromandel		400 Litres				
DOC	Te Pahi		1000 Litres				
DOC	Little Barrier Island		1000 Litres				
		NGVC - Night Vision Goggle Configuration					
		EFB - Emergency Flotation Equipped					
		Real-Time online Tracking available in most aircraft					
CLASS A FOAM: STOCK AVAILABLE AT ALL SKYWORK BASES							

Resources Available for Assistance - Outside Organisations

NZ Fire Service

Name	Contact	Phone - Work	Other
Auckland & Hamilton, FIRECOM	Control Room	09 486 7948 Fax: 09 571 1269	111 emergency
Whangarei Kaipara District		09 438 9199 Fax 09 437 7058	111 emergency
Mike Lister		09 430 1253	027285 3375
Allan Kerrisk		09 470 6153	0274 800 695
Wipari Henwood		09 430 0904	027 226 9540

National Rural Fire Authority

Organisation	Contact	Phone - Work	Other
Wellington	Kevin OConnor	04 496 3689	027 270 9787
Auckland	Rob Goldring	09 354 5126	021 959 219

Dept of Conservation

Organisation	Contact	Phone - Work	Other
All fire calls	Duty Officer		0800 362 468 0800 doc hot
Northland District Office		09 470 3300	
Far North District Office (Kerikeri)		09 407 0300	
Dargaville Field Base		09 439 3450	

District Councils

Organisation	Contact	Phone - Work	Other
Whangarei District Council	Victoria Randell	09 430 4200	027 5615 454
	Ann Midson (Media)	09 430 4200	027 351 2001
Northland Regional Council		09 438 4639	0800 504 639
Far North District Council	Lance Johnston	09 405 2750	021 285 6196
Northern Rural Fire Authority	Myles Taylor	09 401 5200	021 02108467
Kaipara District Council		0800 727 059	0800 727 059
Auckland City	Bryan Cartelle	09 301 0101	027 497 7841
Auckland City	Scott Marchant	09 301 0101	(021) 544 873

Meteorological Service

Organisation	Contact	Phone - Work	Emergency
24 Hour Forecast		0900 999 09	24 hours
Wellington		0900 999 04	
Metfax		0900 779 99	Item # 11995
Marine Forecast		0900 999 99	

NZ Police

Organisation	Phone	Emergency
Whangarei	09 430 4500	111 - 24 hours
Kawakawa	09 404 3150	"
Dargaville	09 439 3400	"

Power Authority

Organisation	Phone	Emergency
Northpower	09 430 1803	Office hours
	09 430 1800	24 hours

Radio

Organisation	Phone	Emergency
Newstalk ZB	09 430 4950	0800 801 080
Radioworks	09 438 0799	
Radio Network	09 430 4950	

Medical Assistance

Organisation	Phone	Emergency
Ambulance		111

Caterers

Organisation	Phone
Denby Caterers (Can deliver)	09 437 1452
Absolute Catering (Dwight)	09 438 7422 or 027 244 5501
Tiffanys	09 438 8454

Fire Equipment Locations

	Whananaki	Whangarei	Maungakaramea
Isuzu 4x4	1	1	1
Hino 4x2			1
International Resource unit		1	
Ute 4 x 4 - Slip-on 500		1	
200 litre Slip-on Unit		3	
Robin / Wajax Pumps LV / HP	1	4	1
HV / LP		2	1
HV / HP	1	3	
Hose Packs	9	30	10
Delivery Hose 70mm	15	40	5
500 litre dam	1	4	
2700 litre dam		1	
5000 litre dam	1	3	1
Firetrol(litres)		9000	
Class A Foam Concentrate	40	1200	60
Knapsacks	0	18	4
Hand Tools	6	50	5

Suppressants and Retardants

Forest Protection Services and New Zealand Fire Service hold stocks of suppressants, NZFS 500 litres FPS 1200 litres. FPS also holds stocks of retardant in Whangarei approx 6000 litres.

Skywork Helicopters will supply initial stocks for air operations.

Agreements under Sections 14, 15, 16 Forest and Rural fires Act

Whangarei District Council has no agreements in place under Sections 14, 15 or 16 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977.

Other Agreements

Whangarei District Council has the following agreements in place for provision of fire services.

1. Contract with Forest Protection Services Trust for the delivery of fire management and Principal Rural Fire Officer services.
2. Constitutions with Maungakārama and Whananaki Rural Fire Forces
3. Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Conservation for fire response in the Whangarei area, attached as Appendix 6

Specially Protected Areas

Whangarei District Council does not have any specially protected areas under Section 6 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, but does operate a permanent “Prohibited” fire season for Limestone and Rabbit Islands in the Whangarei Harbour. This prohibition is to ensure protection of unique ecological values on these islands and will remain in force until further notice.

Restriction of Access to Exotic Forests

Pursuant to Section 32 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 the Whangarei District Council will, in consultation with the forest managers/owners, restrict entry into forests in times of elevated fire danger:

Restrictions on entry to forests will be guided by the New Zealand Fire Danger Rating System. All recreational and other non-operational access to these areas will require a permit for periods where the BUI exceeds 60 and forest managers agree with the PRFO that restrictions would be relevant. Restrictions may be imposed at other times, by agreement between relevant forest managers and the PRFO, when any combination of factors indicate that entry restrictions would be a prudent fire prevention measure.

New Zealand Fire Danger Rating System

The PRFO will monitor fire weather indices and fire danger classes to assess current and predicted fire danger. Whenever predicted weather conditions indicate the likelihood of thresholds for fire restrictions being reached, the PRFO will notify the Emergency Management Officer of the likely timing and outcome of meeting these thresholds. In the case of thresholds for restriction of entry to exotic forests under Section 32 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 the PRFO will also notify the relevant forest managers and discuss the implementation of restrictions.

Fire danger indicator signs in the district will be set to reflect the current and predicted fire danger class most applicable to the predominant fuel/risk as decided by the PRFO or DPRFO.

Fire Danger Indicator Signs

Standard NRFA “grapefruit” fire danger indicator signs will be erected near main traffic routes in Whangarei City and other areas as deemed appropriate. These signs will be maintained and operated by the PRFO. VRFFs

Accompanying the fire danger signs will be signs advising of Restricted or Prohibited fire seasons as appropriate during these times.

Signs regarding fire season status may also be displayed in areas identified by Rural Fire Forces as high risk/profile areas within their communities.

Response levels

Volunteer Fire Forces and Fire Officers maintain a 24 hr 7 day call system and operate regardless of fire danger conditions. During times of extreme fire danger i.e. BUI above 100, the PRFO will give consideration to the location and availability of contracted resources and provide a short report to the Emergency Management Officer as to the level of available resources and the suitability of this level with any recommendations for change.

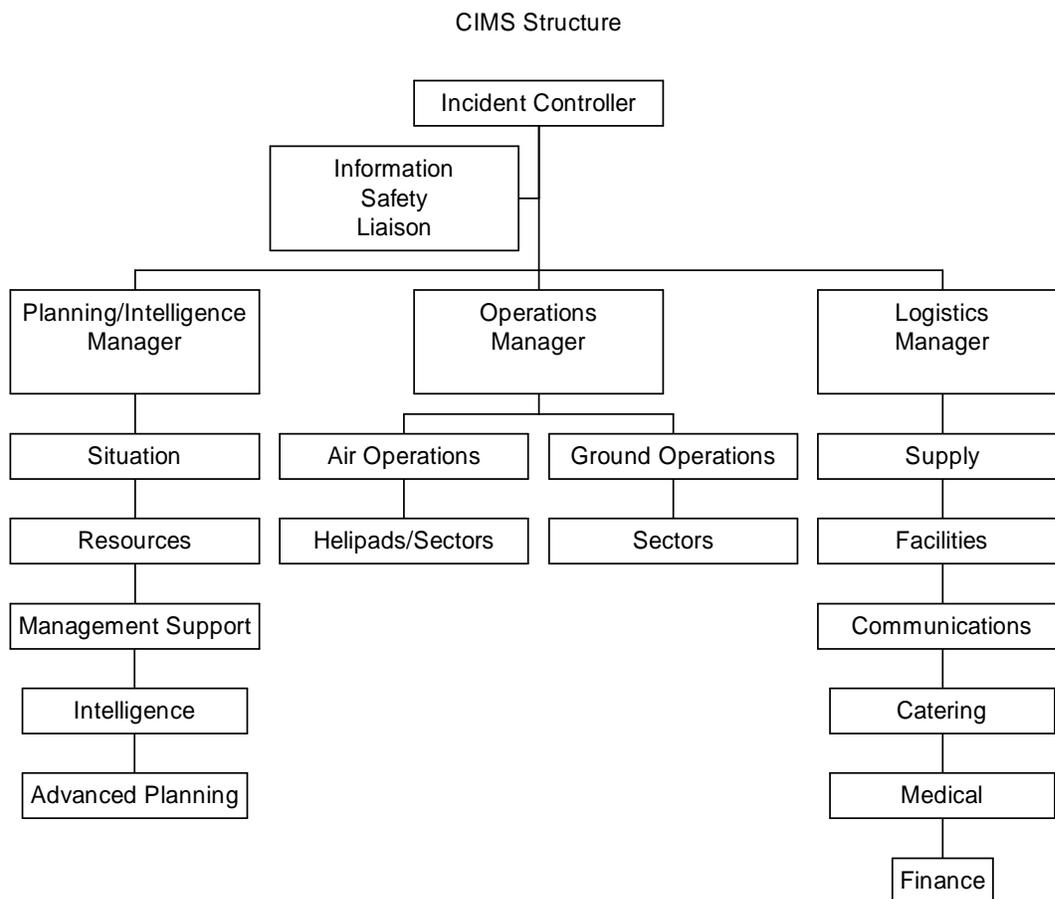
Response

This section details policies and procedures for responding to a fire incident.

The objective of this section is to:

“To initiate a response to a notification of fire that will achieve fast, effective and safe control of the incident by following predetermined plans.”

Command Structure



Reporting

Any person discovering a suspicious or uncontrolled fire should report this to the New Zealand Fire Service (NZFS) using the 111 system; these calls are then notified to the PRFO by pager and to the appropriate Rural Fire Force or Brigade.

Pagers and the 111 system operate 24 hrs a day throughout the year.

Initial Response

The NZFS will:

1. Turn out the nearest Fire Service Brigade and/or Voluntary Rural Fire Force as determined by zone predetermined attendance.
2. Advise the Rural Fire Authority by activating Rural Fire Officers pagers as determined in

appropriate zone notifications.

The RFA officer will:

1. Initiate any extra response to incident over and above that dispatched by NZFS.
2. Check with NZFS to monitor situation reports from the fire ground.
3. Respond to any incident that may require an incident management team to be established.

The Incident Controller will implement the Coordinated Incident Management System at all incidents.

Additional Resource Deployment

If a fire incident escalates beyond the control of the initial response resources, the PRFO/RFO is to respond additional resources. Some of the sources of these additional resources are detailed in this plan in the Readiness section.

Where the total cost of the response is likely to exceed \$5,000 the Incident Controller (IC) is to notify the Emergency Management Officer and obtain approval for the expenditure. The PRFO or designated agent will approve Incident Action Plans (IAP) and authorise resources. If the Emergency management Officer cannot be contacted the IC is to implement the IAP.

For every deployment of additional resources, as determined by the incident management team, a plan is to be formulated for the next level of escalation and resources identified and where necessary placed on standby for deployment.

At a large scale incident it is unlikely that Whangarei District Council resources will be able to mount a prolonged fire attack unaided and resources from other fire authorities will need to be utilised. All requests for resources from other fire authorities should be made through the appropriate duty officer/PRFO in the first instance.

When it is anticipated that a fire will require manpower resources beyond those immediately available within the region a request is to be made to NRFA for deployment of National Incident Response Teams and consideration should be given to engaging a National Incident Management Team.

Incident Communications

Fire Reporting

Initial notification of fires will be to Rural Fire Officers via pagers. This pager call will be initiated by the NZFS.

If a call is directed to Whangarei District Council or Forest Protection Services numbers, or the after hours answer service, the call details are to be relayed to Forest Protection Services pager system 026 105 816. Following receipt of the call the duty Rural Fire Officer (or any other fire officer in their absence) will begin a response.

Any caller making such a call direct to Forest Protection Services or Whangarei District Council will be advised to also call 111 with the same information.

Incident Ground Communications

A specific written communications plan is to be developed when 5 or more crews or 2 or more aircraft are involved in firefighting activities. The following information shall be used as the basis for this plan.

Fireground: Channels

The following channels are available for fireground communications

Local Channel Identifier	Frequency
Fire 1 (NZFS) Default fireground channel	143.8250
Fire 2 (NZFS)	143.7875
Fire 3 (NZFS)	140.9250

Fire 4 (NZFS) Default Air ops channel	140.6125
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Fireground to Comcentre: Telephone or radio network

To NZFS Firecom	LMR system
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Fireground to Incident Control Point: Radio Network

Channel 10 liaison Channel	Call sign to be advised at incident
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ICP to Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)

Telephone or CDEM radio network	ESB 151 Callsigns Whangarei RFO1 and Whangarei RFO2
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Ground to Air

NZFS Fire 4	Initially Fire 4 and later as decided at incident by incident management team
Skywork simplex	
Aviation channels as required	

ICP/EOC to other agencies

Telephone or CDEM radio system

Cell phones

May be used as a form of communication at rural fires. Due to the gaps in the coverage area for cellular use this system will not be relied upon as the sole source of communication.

Record of Fires

All incidents attended by the Whangarei District Council will be recorded in the New Zealand Fire Service Station Management System. The first responding Rural Fire Force or Rural Fire Officer shall be responsible for entering data into the system.

Notifications

The first responding crew or Rural Fire Officer is to locate the incident on the Whangarei Rural Fire Map and ascertain if the incident is in fact within the Whangarei fire district, if not, the appropriate fire authority is to be notified via Firecom as soon as possible with a situation report.

If a fire is near or threatening a commercial forest where the owner can be identified, and is not aware of the incident, the Rural Fire Officer in charge of the incident is to notify the owner of the situation using a cell phone. If cellphone coverage is not available, a request is to be made to Firecom with all contact details to notify the owner.

NRFA Standard, "Achieving Timely Response to Fires" requires Incident Controllers to supply NRFA with situation reports. This standard is attached as Appendix 7

Records of Personnel and Other Resources

It is the responsibility of the officer in charge of the first attending Whangarei District Council crew to ascertain what resources are already at a fire and to record this and any subsequent arriving resources until relieved by another officer, or an incident management team is established at which point this responsibility will be formerly handed over the appropriate person. At larger incidents the Planning Intelligence Manager will assume the responsibility of tracking resources and organizing demobilization plans.

Records must also be kept of any resources consumed or leaving the fire.

Details must include:

1. Names of all personnel on site.
2. Time of arrival and departure.
3. Where and how personnel are deployed.
4. Equipment used.
5. Consumables used.

A detailed fire log must be kept for all incidents. For small incidents requiring only an initial response (3 crews or less) the details recorded by Firecom through situation reports and status messages will be sufficient.

At larger fires the Incident Controller will be responsible for ensuring an ongoing log of events is recorded. In addition to this central log each participant will be encouraged to maintain individual logs and records. This will assist with the later corroboration of events and maximise the potential learning outcome of the de-brief process.

Informal fire behaviour observation should be recorded by crew leaders and included in all situation reports. Formal fire behaviour monitoring will be instigated by the Planning Intelligence Manager at larger fires where an Incident Management Team has been established.

Logistical Support

Requests for logistical support for initial attack and small incidents should be to the PRFO/Duty fire officer via Firecom. For larger incidents a Logistics Manager will be appointed as part of the Incident Management Team to deal with all requests.

The Logistics Manger will appoint any necessary staff to ensure all requests are dealt with in a timely manner and may call on Whangarei District Council staff to provide any necessary resources, facilities or assistance.

Initial contact details for most resources are listed in the Readiness section of this plan.

Recovery

This section details actions to be taken after the event of a fire.

The objective of this section is:

“To promote physical and cultural rehabilitation of a fire affected area and to return all response systems, personnel and equipment to a state of readiness.”

Site Rehabilitation

Whangarei District Council has no powers under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 to carry out or enforce rehabilitation of any area burnt, but will provide advice and support to assist land owners to rehabilitate areas after a fire event and to promote recovery of ecological and cultural values of the area.

Operational Recovery

All fire fighting systems and resources will be returned to operational condition as soon as possible after a fire event in order to be ready for any further outbreak of fire.

All personnel are to be rested as soon as possible to allow them to be redeployed should the need arise. Wherever personnel have been working for prolonged periods consideration will be given to bringing in more staff, from outside areas, to support the on-call crews.

Operational reviews

An operational review will be carried out using the standard NRFA format for any fire resulting in any of the following conditions:

1. Serious injury or death
2. Suppression costs over \$250,000
3. When requested by the National Rural Fire Officer
4. When requested by the Chief Executive of Whangarei District Council.

Operational Debriefs

An operational debrief will be carried out wherever one or more of the following conditions exist:

- When requested by the PRFO or Emergency Management Officer.
- When requested by the senior officer of a Volunteer Rural fire Force involved at the incident.
- When any fire fighter injuries occur that require medical attention.
- When any item of equipment has suffered a serious or potentially serious failure or shortcoming.

Debriefs will be carried out using the standard NRFA template.

Post Fire Investigations

A probable cause of fire is to be determined for all fire incidents. The first responding Rural Fire Officer will be responsible for determining a probable cause for all fires, if unable to determine a cause for any reason, the PRFO or DPRFO are to be notified and action is to be taken to source any outside assistance to further the investigation.

The PRFO will determine the cause of all fires resulting in a claim on the Rural Fire fighting fund or where cost recovery is possible from any party.

If a formal investigation report is required for legal purposes an independent fire investigator is to be appointed to assist the PRFO.

Investigations will comply with NRFA requirements and standards.

Cost Recovery

The PRFO is to pursue cost recovery and/or prosecution wherever possible and prudent. This applies regardless of any claim on the Rural Fire fighting fund.

Appendices

Appendix 1 NRFA Circular 2006/09 Rural Fire Signage

Appendix 2 Whangarei Fire District Map

Appendix 3 Register of Commercial Buildings

Appendix 4 Work/rest Guidelines

Appendix 5 Fire Prevention Bylaw 2005

Appendix 6 Memorandum of Understanding Dept Conservation

Appendix 7 Timely Response to Fires Standard.