



## **Update for residents affected by the Pigeon Valley Fire - Newsletter March 6 2019**

This newsletter provides an update on the recovery phase management of the Pigeon Valley fire.

### **Fire update**

The Pigeon Valley fire is now controlled and the notice to prepare to evacuate has been lifted.

We are still in a high fire risk situation. Please remember there is a total fire ban in place throughout the region. The machinery ban has been lifted but FENZ encourages businesses and farmers to register through the Tasman District Council website to receive daily fire risk updates.

<https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/forms/section-91-exemption-form/>

The fire risk broadcast each day relates to a set of guidelines that for a given risk level indicates what equipment should be carried and what restrictions should be put on activities.

### **Community drop-in session**

Feel like a debrief? Come and share your experience of the Pigeon Valley fires at the Hope Community Church this Friday. All welcome from 3–8pm.

A chance to get information from different agencies, including Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Ministry of Social Development (MSD), Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), Inland Revenue (IRD), iwi, the Insurance Council New Zealand (ICNZ), Nelson Marlborough Health (NMDHB), the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund and Civil Defence (CDEM).

There will not be any formal presentations.

When: Friday March 8

What time: 3pm to 8pm

Where: Hope Community Church

### **Collating damage**

We are collating the damage on private properties as a result of the response to the fire. We will be contacting land owners that have been affected in the next two weeks to discuss remediation.

### **Government funding**

We are meeting with the Government with the view to present an indicative cost of the damage to consider funding implications.

### **Fire breaks**

Fire breaks constructed in response to the fire are no longer required. The containment line put in place by Fire and Emergency is sufficient to contain the fire. This means fire breaks can now be repaired and fences put back up. Property owners have the choice of reinstating what was there previously or to plant it with fire resilient planting.



### **Animal welfare**

We urge people to access the support available. This includes the Rural Support Trust, the Federated Farmer's Feedline and National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT).

You can also contact **Rural Support Trust**: for a free, confidential chat on 0800 787 254.

**Free GP visits and pharmacy prescriptions:** The usual fees for GP visits and pharmacy prescriptions will be waived for fire-related appointments. Please note: The usual fees for general GP visits (i.e. not related to stress or anxiety) apply again from 1 March.

**For help getting healthcare:** Health navigators from Nelson Bays Primary Health are available to help connect you to health services. The team are available Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm.

- free-phone 0800 627 401
- email [healthsupport@nbph.org.nz](mailto:healthsupport@nbph.org.nz)

If you need further support for yourself or for others:

- call your general practice, after-hours GP practice or Healthline on 0800 611 116
- free-phone or text 1737 to talk to a trained counsellor
- in an emergency, call 111

Please refer to the Nelson Marlborough Health website for advice about smoke exposure, helping children to cope and more.

<https://www.nmdhb.govt.nz/nmdhb-news-and-notice/pigeon-valley-forest-fire-update/>

### **Contact details and where to find the most up to date information about the fires, evacuation and the emergency response:**

- The Nelson Tasman Civil Defence website: [www.nelsontasmancivildefence.co.nz/news](http://www.nelsontasmancivildefence.co.nz/news)
- The Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/nelsontasmancivildefenceandemergencymanagement>
- The NZTA traffic pages (for information about road closures): <http://www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/regions/10>
- The Ministry of Social Development can advise on financial support: 0800 779 997
- The Ministry of Primary Industries can advise on animal welfare concerns: 0800 008 333 (option 4)

### **Sharing this update**

Civil Defence is here to help, if you think there are other topics we need to cover in this newsletter let us know.

If you have family or friends that cannot access a computer, please share this information with them. Remember, it is ok to ask for help. If you need help and you're not sure who to ask, call Tasman District Council on 03 543 8400 (24 Hours).