



Update for residents affected by the Pigeon Valley Fire Newsletter #3 Monday, 11 February

This newsletter provides an update on the management of the Pigeon Valley fire as well as information that you might find helpful following the evacuation from your home. This is also a way of communicating directly to evacuated residents.

Fire update. TO BE UPDATED (REMOVE YELLOW TEXT)

Helicopters are today targeting firefighting efforts on the southeast boundary of Wakefield.

Ground crews made good progress in favourable conditions last night building the containment line and dampening down hot spots. The fire is still around 2,300 hectares with a perimeter of 25km. Heavy machinery has been used throughout the day to establish containment lines.

Today's response involves:

Around 190 firefighters

10 helicopters

2 fixed-wing planes

15 heavy machines (excavators and dozers).

47 incident management staff

Getting you back home

We are still actively planning for Valley and Golden Hills residents to be able to return home. At this stage we are not able to say when that can happen. This is because the Valleys and Golden Hills have been affected by fire so the preparations for residents' safe return is more complex.

However, we have continued to enable restricted access for residents of the four Valleys and Golden Hills today and will continue to do so on a daily basis, provided the conditions are safe.

Incident Controller Roger Ball said a final decision would be based on:

The fire behaviour

The weather

The ability of the emergency services to evacuate the town safely and quickly, should conditions change. An update will be published on this page, and via social media and other channels.

Weather forecast

There is no rainfall predicted for the next 14 of days. Warm and dry with temp in the mid-20s with a low properly of drizzle tonight (Monday) and a very low probability of rain over the next 14 days. Winds will be South west averaging 15km per hour, gusting up to 35km per hours for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Community meetings

We expect to hold another community meeting later in the week. We will let you know when and where this will be.

Keeping yourself well

People with asthma, bronchitis, emphysema or other lung disease are at greatest risk from smoke inhalation. Those with angina or other heart disease might also be more affected.

See the **[Nelson Marlborough Health website](#)** for smoke exposure advice and who to call if you feel unwell.

This page also has some great advice on coping with stress and anxiety, sleep tips, helping explain to children what is going on and how to support your mental wellbeing.

Have you registered?

Whether you are asked to leave your home or you self-evacuate, it is really important that you register with Civil Defence.

You can either go to the Civil Defence Centre at Saxton Stadium at Saxton Field, Stoke or phone 03 543 8400.

They can help you with accommodation and let you know what other assistance might be available. This includes:

- Civil Defence payments from Work and Income. You can also contact them on 0800 559 009 to discuss this.
- Assistance with animals – contact MPI on 0800 008 333 - option 4
- Free GP visits if you are finding things overwhelming.

Protecting your personal property

Police are managing the cordons with support from the NZ Defence Force. They are monitoring the area regularly to ensure there aren't people in the area that shouldn't be there.

Where to get help if you need it

Personal wellbeing: If you are finding things overwhelming please contact your GP who will assist you to get free, confidential help from with a certified counsellor or psychologist.

Insurance: When you return to your property take photos and call your insurance company to log a claim.

Water: If you are on a roof water supply and a lot of ash is falling on your roof, it might be best to disconnect the pipe to the tank, and only reconnect it after the next heavy rain (discarding the 'first flush'), to avoid getting ash in your water supply. www.tasman.govt.nz has information on water supply quality and testing.

Animal welfare: The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) has advised that current smoke levels are not considered unsafe, however if you have a pet or livestock in distress, contact your usual veterinarian or the MPI Animal Welfare Emergency Response team on 0800 008 333 – option 4 or email: awem@mpi.govt.nz.

Rural Support Trust: for a free, confidential chat call 0800 787 254.

If you need help accessing a GP please contact Sally.Tohill@nbph.org.nz PH: 03-5437841
You can also call Healthline 24/7 on 0800 611 116



Personal support

Nelson Bays Primary Health

If you are finding things overwhelming, please contact your GP who will facilitate free confidential session/s with a certified counsellor or psychologist.

- If you need help accessing a GP please contact Sally.Tohill@nbph.org.nz PH: 03-5437841
- If you want to discuss any health needs and cannot access your doctor please contact Yvonne.Youngman@nbph.org.nz PH: 03-5437852
- You can also call Healthline 24/7 on 0800 611 116
- Nelson Bays Primary Health are also here to help you. www.nbph.org.nz

Financial Assistance,

Civil Defence payments through Work & Income - Call 0800 779 997

You and your family may be able to get a Civil Defence payment. Work and Income may be able to help cover the costs of .Urgent or unexpected costs (e.g. petrol, food, urgent living expenses, etc.)

Other help such as benefits and housing assistance may also be available. Contact Work & Income on 0800 559 009 if you would like help, aren't sure if you can get help, are struggling to support yourself or your family or would like more information.

More information on who and what help you can get is available on the Work and Income Civil Defence webpage : www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-zbenefits/civil-defence-payment.html

Assistance with animals – contact MPI on 0800 008 333 Option 4

If you need help with your animals, including stock

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
- 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>
- Brian FM is broadcasting Civil Defence information: 106.2 FM
- Parents are advised by the Ministry of Education to stay in touch with your child's school, via the school website or Facebook page. Please check for any changes to the normal routine and bus routes.
- The Ministry of Social Development can advise on financial support: 0800 559 009
- 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're other topics we need to cover in this newsletter let us know.

Hardcopies of this newsletter will be available at the Tasman District Council Customer Service Centre and at each end of the Wakefield cordon.

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).