

Information and updates for residents affected by the Pigeon Valley Fire, from Nelson Tasman Civil Defence and our fire response partners

Wednesday 20 February 2019

Getting you back home - what you need to know

Plans are well advanced for getting Redwood, Teapot and Eves Valley residents home under controlled access.

Controlled access for residents

This means **residents only** will be able to go home, stay overnight, and come and go as you wish, under the condition that you remain ready to evacuate again immediately if the situation changes and the fire risk increases again. The decision will be communicated via text, Facebook and the Nelson Tasman Civil Defence website.

The final decision on your controlled access will be made on Thursday morning, based on a detailed risk assessment including progress on fighting the fire, the weather forecast, and the ability of the emergency services and Defence Force to evacuate everyone safely if necessary.

Safety is the top priority so we can't guarantee that this will go ahead on Thursday – this is what we are working towards.

Access for contractors to the valleys

If you need to have a contractor, insurance assessor or other advisor visit your property in the restricted area, please make sure they apply for access first by calling Tasman District Council on 03 543 8400.

Community meeting update

A community meeting for affected residents was held at Hope Community Church earlier this evening. Fire and Emergency NZ, Civil Defence, Police gave an update on what's happening at the moment. Fire and Emergency NZ also ran individual break-out sessions with residents of the Redwood, Eves and Teapot valleys. If you weren't able to make it, the recording of the main part of the meeting can be accessed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/nelontasmancivildefenceandemergencymanagement/videos/356489361604765/>

Mayoral Relief Fund

The criteria and application process for the Mayors' Disaster Relief Fund has been finalised by mayors Richard Kempthorne and Rachel Reese of Tasman District and Nelson City councils respectively.

The criteria for accessing funding will be made available on the Nelson Tasman Civil Defence and council websites. You will be able to access application forms on the Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council websites and at council libraries and offices. We will let you know when these become available. If you have any questions, call Tasman District Council on 03 543 8400.

The fund is made up of central government grants from the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and the Minister of Civil Defence Kris Faafoi, private and commercial donations, and is awaiting contributions from the various Givealittle pages set up around the country to support those affected by the fires.

Nelson Fire Clean-up Crew

The Nelson fire clean-up crew will be at the Wakefield Village Hall from 10am to 3pm this Sunday, 24 February.

Please drop in if there are any tasks you need help with as a result of the Pigeon Valley fire.

They'll be coordinating clean-up tasks over the coming weeks.

Nelson Suburbs Football Club

The wonderful volunteers from Nelson Suburbs Football Club are handing out food parcels from the clubrooms at Saxton Fields from 10am to 5pm tomorrow and 9am to 12pm on Friday.

They'll need to pack up and leave the clubrooms after that, but you'll be able to pick up food parcels from Whakatū Marae, Nelson Salvation Army or Hope Community Church from Monday.

If you need to stock up before the weekend, please do so before midday on Friday.

Animal welfare update

The Ministry for Primary Industries encourages anyone who is able to conditionally return home to make sure you have plans in place for your animals should you need to re-evacuate. While you still have restricted access to your property, ensure you leave enough food and water for two to three days each time you visit, in case the cordons close at short notice or the conditional re-entry is cancelled.

If you need any support regarding the welfare of your animals please call MPI on 0800 008 333, option 4.

Mental health and wellbeing

As we approach day 16 since the fire started, it's important to think about your own and your family's wellbeing. Don't hesitate to reach out to Nelson

Marlborough DHB's Health Navigators if you need support. Head to this link for up-to-date health information:

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

More information

We are posting the latest information and updates on the Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Facebook page

www.facebook.com/nelsontasmancivildefenceandemergencymanagement. This includes livestreaming the community meetings and sharing information from Fire and Emergency, MPI and other partner organisations. You might like to "follow" us so our posts are more likely to pop up in your newsfeed. Our updates are also online at www.nelsontasmancivildefence.co.nz/