

Rural fires

AN ALTERNATIVE:



An alternative to burning may be composting.

Please see the composting pamphlet available from the Wanganui District Council.

Section 23 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 requires persons lighting fires in certain parts of the rural area to obtain prior approval from the Rural Fire Officer for that particular area. Check with the local Fire Service if in doubt, phone 348 0103.

The approval can be sought from the New Zealand Fire Service, Maria Place Extn, Wanganui, phone 06 3480103; fax 06 3481540.

The Horizons Regional Council Air Plan has rules controlling air discharges from activities including open burning.

To contact phone: 0508 800 800



FIRE RESTRICTIONS:

Fire restrictions are imposed on a seasonal basis and are advertised in the local newspaper.

Contact us:

Phone: 06 349 0001
Fax: 06 349 0000
E-mail: wdc@wanganui.govt.nz
Website: www.wanganui.govt.nz
Address: 101 Guyton Street
 PO Box 637
 Wanganui 4500



Environmental Health Matters

Wanganui District Council



Health matters

Volume 1, Issue 1

Sept 2011

Message from the health inspectors

The aim is for our team to work better alongside the community, giving people more 'bang' for their buck and saving ratepayer expenditure.

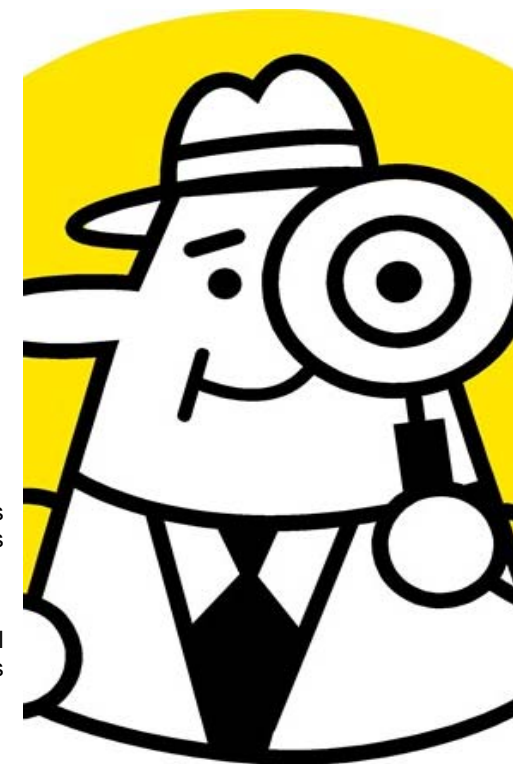
Some of the 'common issues' that will be addressed in these bulletins include smoky fires, noise, litter, overhanging trees, water leaks, food poisonings, food premise inspections (health grades, public safety), abandoned vehicles, keeping of cats/dogs indoors in excessive numbers causing health issues, sprinkler use, road closures, surface flooding, dead stock, water testing, vandalism and that's just to name a few.

As you can see the Environmental Health Team cover a wide range of issues and we believe that the Community could benefit from knowing about the requirements and standards for these issues, which will help our team to be more effective. The first issue addressed in Volume 1 is related to smoky fires.

Be safe out there.

Doug, Karl, Victor, Therese & Clive

Environmental Health Team



Inside this issue:



1. Fire do's and don'ts

2. Rural Fires

3. Incinerators

4. Fire hazards

Hello and welcome to this new initiative in communicating about environmental health. This quarterly bulletin will provide information on 'Health Matters' which the Wanganui District Council's, Environmental Health Team address on your behalf to ensure a safer, healthier community.

Many people are not aware of the Environmental Health Team's roles and the 'Common Issues' we deal with on a daily basis. The bulletin will also provide an educational tool for the community, to assist with daily life by identifying the causes of areas of concern on properties in the Wanganui District.

BURNING UP!

The misuse of household incinerators and inconsiderate burning of domestic and garden refuse is the subject of frequent complaints by residents in the urban area. In the interest of fire safety, air pollution and community pride, householders are requested to improve their methods of burning where necessary. Your attention is drawn to the Wanganui District Council Bylaw Section 9 Fires, subject to Bylaw 9.1.3, 'no person shall light or allow to remain alight any fire in the open air within the urban area unless they have first obtained the appropriate permit issued by a person authorised by the Council'. Notwithstanding Bylaw 9.1.2 a licence shall not be required for:

- a) a fire in an incinerator of a type approved by the Council situated at least three metres from any fence, live hedge, combustible material, building or neighbour's property boundary;
- b) a fire in a barbecue under constant supervision;
- c) a hangi fire under continuous supervision situated at least three metres from any fence, live hedges, combustible material, building or neighbour's property boundary; or
- d) a fire in a 'brazier' with a catchment tray or on an inflammable surface under constant supervision.



Fire do's and don'ts

Not permitted

- Smokey fires
- Airborne ash / embers
- Burning green vegetation
- Burning tyres, plastics, & accelerants
- If there is a high fire risk
- We want to know about any of these activities

Permitted

- Clean burning odourless material
- Compliant incinerators
- Barbecues
- Hangi fires & pits
- Braziers with a catchment tray

We allow these activities

But

These fires must:

- Be under constant supervision
- Have adequate water supply on site to extinguish and prevent the spread of fire

In addition, no incinerator fire shall be lit before sunrise or continue to burn after sunset.



Incinerators

- a) The design of an incinerator should be such that the materials burnt shall be reduced to inoffensive ash and smoke is kept to a minimum.
- b) The incinerator must be constructed of durable fire-resistant materials.
- c) No sparks, embers or inflammable material likely to cause fire should escape from the incinerator.
- d) The incinerator must be fitted with an efficient grate and an ash pit, unless the design is such that efficient combustion is achieved without a grate or ash pit.
- e) The incinerator must be sited in such a position as not to cause a smoke nuisance or fire risk, not less than three metres from any fence, hedge,

combustible material or neighbour's property boundary.

- f) It is advisable to install a flue or chimney to your incinerator.

A building consent is usually required for large permanent barbecues.

Please discuss with Council's building control officers before building starts.

Any person who wishes to burn an open fire, town or country, must first obtain a fire permit!

Contact: New Zealand Fire Service
Maria Place Extn.
Wanganui

Phone: 06 348 0103 Fax: 06 348 1540



Fire hazards

Reference WDC Bylaw:

9.2.1 No owner or occupier of any land shall allow any vegetation to remain on the land if, in the opinion of a Council officer, the vegetation is a fire hazard.

9.2.2 The Council may, by written notice, require the owner or occupier of any land on which there is a fire hazard to remove vegetation within the time specified in the notice.

9.2.3 If the owner or occupier fails to remove the vegetation within the time specified, the Council may undertake the work, and recover the cost from the owner.

**UNDER THE LAW,
A PERSON WHO HAS AN
UNPERMITTED FIRE CAN
BE CHARGED WITH THE
COST OF FIGHTING IT!**

