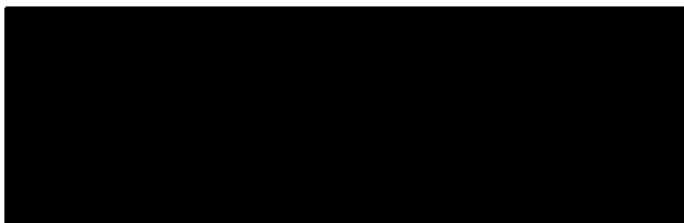




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11 October 2018



Information Request – Christmas tree fires

I refer to your official information request dated 26 September 2018 asking for information relating to an article about Christmas tree fires.

You mention that the article quoted Matt Crabtree, Fire Risk Management Officer, saying that "while many kiwis loved the smell of real Christmas trees they could be a fire danger unless properly cared for. In the last six years, firefighters nationally had attended 12 blazes where trees had been set alight by decorations."

The twelve fires, referred to by Matt Crabtree, were more accurately defined as the number of structure fires between December 2011 and December 2016 (inclusive) involving either Christmas tree or Christmas decorations. Of the twelve, ten occurred on residential properties. The remaining two incidents occurred at a hospital (decorations catching fire) and a department store (Christmas tree catching fire).

Note also that this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Fire and Emergency website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bella Sutherland".

Bella Sutherland
Director, Office of the Chief Executive