

IGNITE

TE HIRINGA O TE TANGATA

ISSUE 22 / SUMMER 2021 / RAUMATI 2021

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saved firefighter's life





Ignite is the official magazine for Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

**Te Hiringa o te Tangata –
To have drive, zest, determination.
To have heart and soul.**

Ignite represents the voices of the people across the country who dedicate themselves to protecting life, the environment and property in their communities.

It is produced by the Fire and Emergency Communications Team, National Headquarters, Level 12, 80 The Terrace, Wellington, 6140.

Contributions to Ignite

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fireandemergency.nz/news-and-media

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KIA ORA KOUTOU

In this final issue of Ignite for 2021, I want to thank you for your commitment and dedication to keeping Aotearoa New Zealand safe during a year of change and challenge.

COVID-19 has been the dominant feature throughout 2021. August marked the inevitable arrival of the Delta variant on our shores and was very quickly followed by nationwide and then regional lockdowns. Despite the uncertainty and restrictions, you have shown great resilience and adaptability.

The Government's decision that the majority of our roles will require our people to be vaccinated has had a big impact on us, and I am aware that this has been a stressful and emotional time for those who have chosen not to be vaccinated. As an organisation we remain focused on doing what is right for our communities, which is to ensure that we do not contribute to the spread of the virus.

A few highlights for me have included the launch of Hiwa-i-te-rangi in early July during a very special hautapu ceremony to mark the appearance of Matariki. Hiwa-i-te-rangi, our Māori Outcomes Programme, will help us to improve our services by building a better understanding of Māori culture.

On 27 September we replaced an historic split of 24 urban areas and 18 rural fire districts with 17 new Districts. Standing up our new Service Delivery structure marked an important milestone in the unification of our organisation and an opportunity for us to build on how we serve our communities.

I was particularly encouraged to see more than 200 firefighters of various ranks, with experience in built and natural environments, take the permanent step up to new roles, showing that they believe in the direction that Fire and Emergency is going. I also was very pleased to see our first female appointments at executive officer level. Their appointments set a great example for women across our organisation.

This year we've also made strong progress towards establishing a permanent Behaviour and Conduct Office. It will help us to build a values-based culture where we hold ourselves to account and call out unwanted behaviour.

Significant flooding events during the year in Westport and across Canterbury were reminders of how our climate is changing. They reinforce why Fire and Emergency was created and show the benefits of working closely with our emergency service partners and other organisations.

I hope everyone finds some time to recharge and spend time with whānau and friends over the summer. To those of you rostered or on call over the festive period, thank you for making sure we stay safe.

**Kia harikoa, kia haumarū hoki i ēnei
rā whakatā | Have a joyful and safe
holiday season
Rhys Jones, Chief Executive**



The Industrial Scientific Tango personal gas monitor will be handed out at wildfire events by the Incident Management Team.



From the same manufacturer comes the VentisPro 5 gas monitor.

NEW GAS DETECTORS COMING

Our new gas detectors offer firefighters more protection from toxic or flammable gases and unsafe atmospheres, and will start to be rolled out later this month.

They will give firefighters much more protection at fires, gas leaks, refrigerant plants, accidental and self-harm medical events, confined spaces and post-fire investigations.

Trials were held earlier this year to run the monitors through a range of incidents. The trial team comprised experienced firefighters, officers and specialist fire investigators. Our independent observers came from all parts of Fire and Emergency too, and included hazmat specialists and representatives from NZPFU, UFBA, PSA and the RPA to ensure that the monitor was tested to the highest standards.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer at Stokes Valley Volunteer Fire Brigade Andrew Mansfield was one of the observers.

"It was a privilege to be part of such a comprehensive, inclusive and vigorous set of trials that will see a fit-for-purpose unit being rolled out."

Station Officer at Grey Lynn Station Marty Campbell, who was also an observer, said issuing personal gas monitors to fire appliances was a significant step.

"The trial was very robust and placed the gas monitors through a strenuous series of tests designed to check their suitability under a range of operational conditions."

Phil Muldoon, Chief Fire Officer at Lake Ōkāreka Volunteer Fire Brigade said he was grateful for the opportunity for his crew to participate in the trials and that "it was very beneficial for them to see some of the technology that is being developed".

Here are some photos from the trials. There is more information on the gas detectors on the project Portal page.



WATCH OUT FOR OUR WILDFIRE CAMPAIGN

The risk of wildfire is increasing in New Zealand due to climate change. This wildfire season, our campaign focuses on making sure those at risk are preparing their properties for wildfire and getting everyone to check the local fire danger before they light.

Phase 1 of the campaign, live from early October to the end of November, aimed to educate those living rurally or semi-rurally to take action to defend their home and property from wildfires. The campaign referred to some simple property maintenance tasks, such as keeping grass short around buildings and clearing dead leaves and debris from gutters and around decks, that can help prevent their home from being destroyed in the event of wildfire. The campaign used the tagline 'If you're not ready the risk is always extreme'.

Phase 2 of the campaign, live from early December until the end of February, aims to reduce the risk of people causing a devastating wildfire. The campaign asks anyone who is planning to light a fire to check the local fire danger on www.checkitsalright.nz before lighting, to protect our native flora and fauna. This year, we continue to use our much-loved piwakawaka, tūi and kiwi to convey our messages. We've also added the highly recognisable half grapefruit fire danger sign visual in our advertisements.

We have again worked with ambassador Christian Cullen to create four new videos in the 'Outdoor fire safety with Cully' video series. The videos are 'Backcountry fire safety with Cully', 'Backcountry cooking safety with Cully', 'Bonfire safety with Cully', and 'Backyard BBQ safety with Cully'. We began promoting these via YouTube and social media in early December. The next part of the series is 'Cultural Cooking Safety' with Glen Osborne, former Māori All Black and Whanganui community constable.

We are aiming to reach people who use fire recreationally during the holidays in two ways. Firstly, through TV, online video, social media and radio. Secondly, while they are travelling around Aotearoa, on street posters, at petrol stations and on gas bottles. We also plan to have geo-targeted ads on social media and other websites displaying the fire danger level where they are.

As part of the campaign, we also want to make it easier for the public to take the right action to reduce wildfire risk. That's why fire danger information is no longer just the territory of roadside signage. The public can now access live fire danger information for any location at www.checkitsalright.nz, www.metservice.com, as well as www.fireweather.niwa.co.nz.

As part of our work with MetService, the public will see areas of High, Very High or Extreme forecast fire danger across Aotearoa reported on MetTV, as well as other major TV, radio and newspaper forecasts.

Where possible, fire danger information is accompanied by advice on the right action to take in the conditions. For example, if the fire danger is Very High or Extreme, the advice provided on metservice.com is: Do not have a fire or do any activity or work that emits sparks or heat.



CULLY WARNS KIWIS NOT TO DROP THE BALL THIS SUMMER

Legendary former All Black, Christian Cullen, was nicknamed the Paekakariki Express and is considered to be one of the most potent running fullbacks rugby has ever seen.

Cully was the star of our camping safety video last year and is once again fronting Fire and Emergency's outdoor summer fire safety video series. But what made the international rugby star get involved as an ambassador?

Why did you want to get involved with Fire and Emergency?

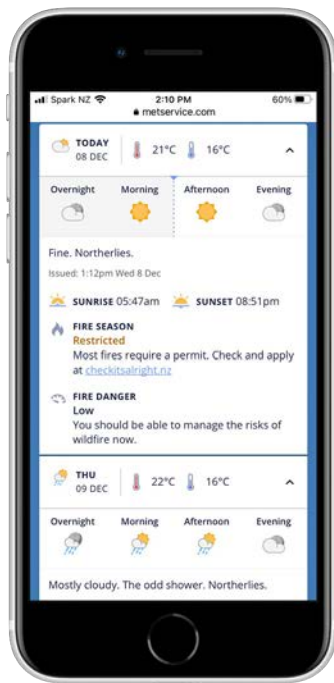
It has been tough seeing what people have experienced with wildfires in New Zealand and around the world, especially over in Australia and the US. I've also seen people do some silly things with fire and it's frustrating that they don't realise the potential consequences. If I can do something to help Kiwis reduce the potential risk, then that's great.

What have you learned while working with us?

I've learned how quickly fires can get out of control and that by doing simple checks, you can prevent a potential disaster.

Do you have a message for Kiwis about fire safety this summer?

Have a great summer, New Zealand. It has been another tough year, and everyone deserves a break and to have fun. Just use your common sense and be safe with fire, both in the outdoors and in your backyards. Check it's alright. Alright?!



BRINGING THE FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE HOME

Tash Rankin is treated like a celebrity when she goes to the local shops.

The Timaru-based Risk Reduction Advisor is well known among the local primary school children, who all call out to 'Firefighter Tash' and ask her when they will get their postcard in the post.

The postcards are an initiative Tash, in her former role as Fire Risk Management Officer, and her colleague Adrian Nacey from the National Community Readiness and Recovery team, hooked into as a way of getting fire safety messages into the children's homes.

Tash leaves the postcards after an education session with the school, kindergarten or special interest group and the children fill in three things they want to share with their families to be safe. She collects them up later, pops a stamp on and sends them to the children's home or homes as needed.

Tash says it is a simple and effective way of getting fire safety messages outside of the classroom and into homes.

"We got the idea from one of our local schools that participated in the Get Firewise programme, and went on to have their children write postcards that they sent to their homes.

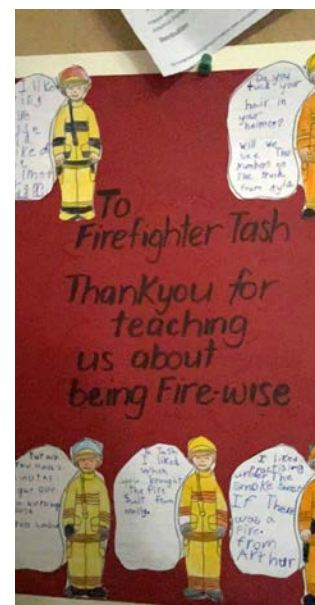
"It has really helped the children differentiate between what to do in a fire and what to do in an earthquake – reinforcing the message 'get down low, get out FAST!'

"Not only do they learn fire safety messages and get them into their homes, but they also learn about their street name and number – often the word 'address' is lost on children. They get really excited about receiving something in the mail, and going to the letterbox may also mean they are practising going to their safe meeting place."

Tash says the postcard also contains Fire and Emergency contact details for families to book home fire safety visits.

"The children have made the process their own and I am amazed at what they are retaining.

"Children of any nationality can participate; sometimes the children are the only English speakers in the family – they can use this postcard to prompt them to teach their families. And a child with more than one home can send more than one card if they wish to, Mum's house or Dad's house or even Nanny's if that's where they live."



GOING GREENER BY THE BUCKETLOAD

Last year, Fire and Emergency used around 86,000 litres of Class A foam delivered in over 4,000 plastic containers to help extinguish fires. Those empty containers currently go into landfill or are cut down to make buckets. Our Equipment and Logistics team is trialling a way to change all that.

Since August, the Equipment and Logistics directorate has been planning with Te Hiku Region management to undertake a proof of concept to reduce waste. Instead of disposing of the containers, they will be refilled safely at the Kaikohe Service Centre, deployed and stored strategically throughout the Region.

To ensure this refilling work is safe, a specialised shipping container with a grated floor and sealed bunding to contain any spillage is used, with personnel wearing the appropriate PPE. Class A foam is purchased in 1,000-litre IBC containers and decanted into the reused 20-litre containers. Equipment has also been purchased to package the refilled containers onto pallets for safe transport.

Kaikohe Equipment and Logistics Manager Trevor Gallagher is delighted that a sustainability issue is being thoughtfully dealt with.

"If we can give these sturdy plastic containers a second life, even up to a fifth life, it feels like we're effectively reducing waste. Refilling activity started in mid-November and the project will run for six months throughout the fire season for this initial trial," said Trevor.

EV TRAINING 'EXTREMELY VALUABLE'

Chief Fire Officer at Carterton Volunteer Fire Brigade Bryan Styles says the online training for responding to fires involving electric and hybrid vehicles is 'extremely valuable'.

"My crew and I were really impressed with the training. Even as a qualified mechanic, I came away with a lot more knowledge, and we all have more confidence now about attending these kinds of incidents. It dispelled some of the myths and highlighted the 'hot spots'."

Service Delivery National Operations Advisor — Fleet and Equipment, Keith Pedley, says all operational personnel should complete the training, which can be done as a group at a brigade training night or individually.

"There are five strands to the training module to complete. Go to Learning Station and search for 'EV training'."



CAREER FIREFIGHTER TO COACH IN INAUGURAL SUPER RUGBY AUPIKI

Auckland-based career firefighter Willie Walker is set to play a pivotal role in the inaugural Super Rugby Aupiki — a four-team semi-professional women's 15s rugby competition.

It features teams from the Blues, Chiefs and Hurricanes Super Rugby franchises, as well as one from the South Island which combines players from the Highlanders and Crusaders.

Willie, who is based at Remuera Fire Station and has been a career firefighter for nearly nine years, has been appointed the coach of the Blues squad. He played Super Rugby in the 2000s and has recently been coaching the Auckland Storm (the city's women's team).

Willie said he is looking forward to having a role in the first women's competition.

"The growth of women's rugby around the world has been remarkable and, while New Zealand has led the way with development of players, we are now playing a bit of catch-up with the professional game.

"Hopefully this can lead to a full-time professional competition next year and develop a pathway for our young players. It's massively exciting and a privilege to be part of."

Willie says he has the full support of his management at Fire and Emergency.

"I'm able to work around rosters and get the time off I need to balance both my firefighting and coaching."

Super Rugby Aupiki kicks off in March next year.



CLEAN AND HEALTHY BEFORE AND AFTER A FIRE

The Carcinogen Control Project (CCP) is implementing controls to minimise and manage exposures to carcinogens in smoke so firefighters are clean and healthy before and after a fire.

The project is trialling a post-fire management system (PFM), based on international best practice, with a limited number of stations before rolling out the PFM and associated kit nationwide.

Firefighter for over 10 years and currently the National Operations Advisor for Carcinogen Control, Dr Kevin Crume, says the project is aiming to run the trials in early 2022 over a period of three months with brigades from Auckland and Palmerston North and at NTC during live fire training.

"The new system provides real direction for firefighters on what to do once they exit a structure fire and prepare to leave the fire ground to minimise the consequences of carcinogen exposure.

"For the trials, we are rolling out new kit and a training package. The kit will be placed on the fire appliances and consists of a rated hose with a spray attachment, new wipes, and additional items to get BA sets clean on the fire ground. This equipment will suppress the carcinogen particulates and, combined with the new system, will help reduce the risk of cancer."

Kevin says the new post-fire management system will mean our firefighters can maintain hygiene on the fire ground.

"At the moment, they are not clean until they are back at the station and have had a shower. The new system will stop the station shower being the ambulance at the foot of the cliff; instead, it's a safety net."

Follow progression of the CCP on the Project Portal page.



A NEW APPROACH FOR SAFER HAWKE'S BAY HOMES

Five years ago, Taradale Fire Station wanted to do more community education around fire safety, but their volunteer firefighters were already stretched. A new approach was needed, so Fire Chief Paul Hughes called together the local police representative and the Coordinator from Napier Community Patrol. Together they created a whole new volunteer approach that has undoubtedly saved lives.

The programme was named SAFE (Smoke Alarms For Everyone) and now has 20 volunteers who go out every week, mostly on Saturdays, to educate locals and install smoke alarms.

Nigel Hall, Community Risk Manager Hawke's Bay, was appointed as the key liaison, facilitating training and ensuring the volunteers felt part of Fire and Emergency.

"I've always believed we can do more up front to stop people getting injured, or worse. SAFE is a perfect example of this. Every home we visit and every smoke alarm installed is another dot on the map, another house and family saved," said Nigel.

Kenny Knowles was appointed as Brigade Community Support Officer, managing the programme.

"I've done a lot of community volunteering, but I can honestly say this is the best programme I've ever been

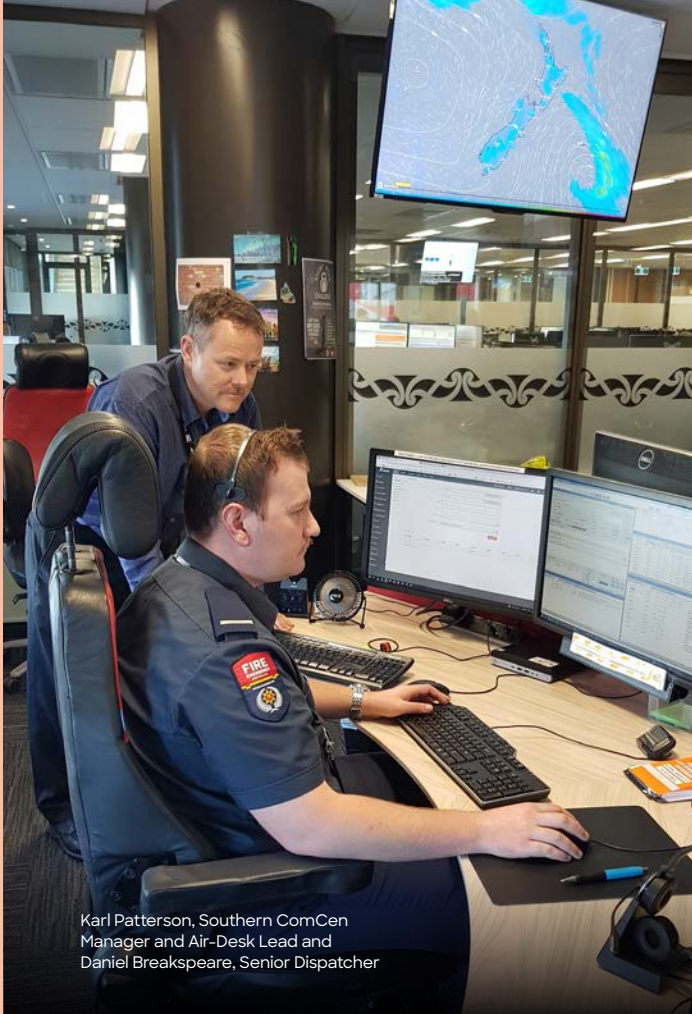
involved in. You know you're really achieving something. We know of three households where families followed the escape plans we talked about and saved lives," he said.

While the programme started in Taradale, it has expanded to Napier, Flaxmere and other parts of Hastings. In five years over 3,000 homes have been visited and 6,233 alarms installed.

Steve Turek, National Manager Community Readiness and Recovery, says the programme is a proven winner.

"Their results are incredible and the team has also helped Whanganui Brigade to set up a similar programme. I really hope other brigades will follow suit. It's an excellent way to reach at-risk communities and help save lives by changing our thinking and approach."

If your Brigade is interested in getting involved, please contact Nigel.Hall@fireandemergency.nz



Karl Patterson, Southern ComCen Manager and Air-Desk Lead and Daniel Breakspeare, Senior Dispatcher

NATIONAL AIR-DESK UP AND FLYING

Following a recommendation in the Tasman Fires Review Report, our National Air-Desk was launched in March. Based at the Southern Communications Centre (SouthernComCen), it's already made a big impact on incidents around the country.

The Air-Desk provides a centralised process to receive and action requests to dispatch aviation services to incidents.

Karl Patterson, Southern ComCen Centre Manager and Air-Desk Lead, said the team has done an incredible job maintaining business as usual while executing their new roles.

"We're lucky to have so many dispatchers with solid aviation knowledge relating to the Air-Desk. Twelve of the team have completed the Air Support Supervisor Course as well as training on ARENA, a web-based inventory and tracking system especially designed for Fire and Emergency. For the past nine months, they've been putting it all into action and we're seeing great results."



Catherine Thomas, Senior Dispatcher

Catherine Thomas is one of the Senior Dispatchers, joining Fire and Emergency after 15 years with the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force as an Air Operations Sergeant. She appreciates the opportunity to put that experience to use back home.

"It's great to have a national perspective, working with aircraft operators and our group managers on the ground. The ARENA technology means we can swiftly find and dispatch the closest and most suitable aircraft for events anywhere in the country, keeping pilots safe and supporting our ground crews."

Daniel Breakspeare is also a Senior Dispatcher and a commercial pilot in his previous career. A volunteer firefighter for five years, he's currently completing a Degree in Aviation Management.

"We can compile all the event information early on and the GPS tracking gives us speed, time and distance calculations we can share with our crews within minutes. It's taken a lot of hard work to get here and we're proud to be delivering such a vital service," said Daniel.

The experienced team and state-of-the-art technology at the National Air-Desk are primed and ready for the fire season ahead.

BOARD PROFILE: MARY-ANNE MACLEOD

Mary-Anne Macleod brings significant leadership experience in emergency management, along with technical expertise in earth sciences, to her new role on our Board. Based in Tauranga, Mary-Anne was appointed to the Board in August 2021.

Since completing her Masters degree in Earth Sciences at Waikato University, Mary-Anne has held a number of public and private sector roles including with the Department of Conservation, Ministry of Energy (mining) and Ministry for the Environment.

A stint overseas consulting in environmental management saw her working in mostly industrial workplaces ranging from offshore and nuclear power plants to wind farms, a tractor factory, and even a chicken farm.

In 2011 Mary-Anne was appointed Chief Executive of Bay of Plenty Regional Council, the first woman to hold this role. It followed four years as Group Manager Strategic Development for the council, responsible for incident management, Civil Defence and transport.

"Six weeks into the CE role in October 2011, the Rena grounded on the Astrolabe Reef off Tauranga, and I found myself leading the Bay's response. I also led through the devastating Edgumbe floods on my watch, in 2016.

"Those were both immensely challenging events for the Bay and gave me a much greater awareness of the important role of emergency services."

Three years ago, Mary-Anne stepped down from the CE role to focus more on governance.

She is also on the Boards of NIWA, Environmental Protection Authority, and DairyNZ, as well as a strategic advisor to central and local governments.

"I really enjoy joining the dots and making a difference at a governance level."

Mary-Anne is particularly interested in supporting Fire and Emergency's continued strategic development.

"I'm interested in how Fire and Emergency can make a difference on the ground and build on what it already does well. Being 'most trusted' is an amazing thing to be and speaks very highly of Fire and Emergency, but it is a challenge to maintain.

"I want to make sure we're always taking a strategic look into the future and asking: what challenges will we face, what equipment will we need, what do our people need to be safe and successful, and how can we stay financially secure?"

Mary-Anne has been appointed to Fire and Emergency's new People and Culture Committee along with Board Chair Rebecca Keoghan and fellow Board member Wendie Harvey.



BOARD PROFILE: DANNY TUATO'O

Danny Tuato'o was appointed to the Fire and Emergency Board in August 2021 and brings a passion for conservation, diversity and volunteering.

Since buying a lifestyle block three years ago at Whangarei Heads, Danny estimates his family have planted more than 3,000 native trees on land that was previously grazed by cattle.

"My aim is to create a predator-free habitat where native flora and fauna can thrive," he says.

Danny is actively involved as a volunteer with Backyard Kiwi, a core group of around 70 community members who work alongside the council across Whangarei Heads to improve the habitat for kiwi through pest control, hunting and conservation.

"Over 10 years we've seen local kiwi numbers grow from around 80 to more than 1000."

Volunteering and community are strong themes across many of the governance roles Danny has held over the past 20 years. Danny likes both the strategic focus of governance work and the values of local hands-on frontline services.

"Dad was a volunteer firefighter in Kawhia, which was always a core part of the community. I spent a lot of time at that fire station when I was younger, trying on the kit, or waiting, or playing spotlight in the evenings at community events."

Danny also has a particular interest in water safety. He recalls an incident as a child when he got caught in a rip, rescued just in time by his dad. He's recently completed a five-year term as Chair of Water Safety New Zealand and is currently on the Board of Maritime New Zealand.

He says that diversity is important and he is very conscious that organisations like Fire and Emergency need to better reflect the communities we serve to be relevant, connected and effective.

Danny is of Ngāpuhi descent and a Partner at Whangarei based law firm Marsden Woods Inskip Smith. He is also on the board of architecture and urban design firm Isthmus and is an independent advisor to Northland Regional Council.



HEALTH CHECK MAY HAVE SAVED FIREFIGHTER'S LIFE

"Just take the up the offer – it could save your life" is the message Upper Tākaka volunteer firefighter Nigel Harwood is sharing with personnel.

His call to firefighters follows an October health check with health provider Vitality Works that picked up dangerously high blood pressure. It was so high that Nigel was at serious risk of having a stroke or a heart attack.

"I was really shocked to learn my blood pressure was so high. I thought I was fit. I'm a farmer, I was in the army for 15 years and I eat well. To be confronted by this at 52 has not been a good experience."

Nigel says his last health check was prior to 2016. He was scheduled for one last year but missed it due to other priorities. Needless to say, he is grateful to have attended this year.

"We probably all have a bit of a 'she'll be right' attitude but this year the crew decided we'd get the health check — it was a bit of male peer pressure.

"The check is pretty comprehensive, and my personal experience is that they're done really well. It's not a hardship at all and I've actually learnt a lot too."

Each year Fire and Emergency New Zealand provides a free, confidential health check for all personnel as part of its "Hauora" health monitoring programme. The assessment covers cardiovascular screening, audiometry,

spirometry (lung capacity), vision, mental health questions, immunisation review, inter-current disease review and health and wellness promotion.

A health check is recommended to assist with early detection and to enable chronic health conditions to be monitored.

After his health check at the station, Nigel was referred to his GP and urgently seen the following day.

"I've discovered my high blood pressure is hereditary and I'm now on medication to return to a safe level. I was told that if I'd been doing something like tramping, I could've easily had a stroke or a heart attack. This really hit home as just a few weeks earlier I'd been on a hunting trip with my son."

Nigel expressed his thanks to the Fire and Emergency management and Board "for implementing a policy that has, I believe, had a significant positive outcome for me or may even have saved my life".

**Do you have a similar story that you'd be happy to share?
Please email communications@fireandemergency.nz**

UNDERSTANDING OUR NATION'S HISTORY TO BETTER SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES

When Mark Sillis, Regional Training Coordinator for Canterbury/South Canterbury, received an offer to attend a three-day cultural competency programme run by Kia Tika te Ara, he was keen to see what was on offer but a little unsure as to what value it could add to his professional and personal life. Mark says what he learned over those three days has dominated his thinking ever since, and he's not alone.

Nestled 20 minutes north of Timaru is Arowhenua Marae, which hosted 21 of our people in November while they took part in Ki te Whai Ao, 'The Glimmer of Dawn'. The intensive programme is designed to teach what many weren't taught at school with the aim of creating better experiences for the Māori communities we serve. Māori worldview, impacts of our history, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and basic pronunciation are just a few of the topics covered.

Our people praised the programme's tutors for creating a positive and safe learning environment that was challenging enough to make you think but also intertwined with their aspirational outlook for the future.

Mid-South Canterbury's Group Manager Paul Manson says the programme is "above everything else I've ever done".

"The learning has been life-changing. I have done many courses and always found it hard to pronounce te reo Māori correctly, however this course taught me to understand and pronounce words in a practical way and, importantly for me, I know it is okay to still say words in English if I am struggling."

The programme was spearheaded by Senior Advisor Community Readiness and Recovery Donna Lindsay with the assistance of Group Manager Stephen Butler. Donna has

been on her own te reo Māori journey in a bid to learn more about our country's history.

Fire and Emergency Chief Executive Rhys Jones congratulated each participant in the programme for stepping out of their comfort zone to be a learner. Rhys also acknowledged the time and commitment the participants chose to give to this important kaupapa: "Thank you for leading the way."

On their final day, participants went around the room speaking about their experience of the programme:

"It's all we all talk about."

"I'm 50 and this is the first time I've been on a marae."

"We are all talking about where to next and I can imagine all of us will be doing some type of language course in the next six months."

National Manager Kaupapa Māori Piki Thomas was in attendance and said how heart-warming it was to hear the positive comments from everyone. Piki mentioned how important their education is for better understanding our nation's history.

"We can't change the past, but through understanding our history we can influence the future."



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AT MAKETU VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Based in a small town on the Bay of Plenty coast, Maketu Volunteer Fire Brigade has been made up of 50 percent wāhine and 50 percent tāne for the last five years.

Wāhine in the Brigade have been part of the crew for between three and 27 years, and Maketu Volunteer Fire Brigade firefighter Kirsty Leven says it's great having an equal mix of males and females and enjoys the level of diversity this brings.

"Having an equal mix of males and females in our brigade is awesome. We get to have competitions with each other and challenge one another. We involve our family with everything, so we also have a second family with a lot of cousins — as the kids say!"

"We work alongside Pukehina Volunteer Fire Brigade on occasion and the women in their brigade are great too."

Kirsty would love to see more women join brigades. Seeing more female firefighters is just one of the ways to inspire more female volunteers to join the crew.



IF I CAN DO IT, YOU CAN DO IT — MEHEMEA KA TAEA E AU, KA TAEA E KOE

Over 1,000 of our people have achieved their Tohu since it launched on 2 July.

"Te Tohu" is a wearable pin given to our people who read "He Timatanga Kōrero" — our introductory guide to Kaupapa Māori — and pass the associated knowledge check on Learning Station. Wearing Te Tohu is a way to show support for our commitment to working with Māori as tangata whenua, as well as progression in cultural education.

Tairāwhiti Business Services Coordinator Suzie Lamont says she is proud to wear her Tohu.

"It reminds me of what I have learned and gives me courage and confidence to practise my pepeha."

Operational Support for Woodend Fire Station Sandra Grant says her Tohu is a way to show a first step to learning more about Māori culture.

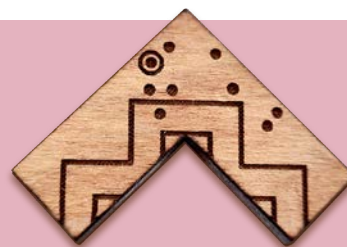
"Being of an older Pākehā generation, we never had the opportunity to learn."

All our Executive Leadership Team have achieved their Tohu, showing that commitment to building our understanding and confidence of Kaupapa Māori comes right from the top of our organisation.

Raewyn Bleakley Deputy Chief Executive Office of The Chief Executive says learning about a culture and language different to your own can feel daunting.

"I'm extremely proud and want to congratulate everyone who has taken the time to achieve their Tohu. Wear it with pride and I challenge you all to bring someone else on the journey so we can double our numbers."

Contact Hiwa-i-te-rangi@fireandemergency.nz for copies of He Timatanga Kōrero or download it from the Portal.



Wellington - Fire and Emergency
October 22 at 7:43 PM · 🌐

Update 🚒
Our crews are still hard at work on the vegetation fire above Naenae but frustratingly, we have had to suspend the helicopter attack because someone is flying a drone in the area. Incident Controller Jason Hill has urgently asked anyone in the area with a drone to stay well away because the helicopters fighting the fire cannot fly with drones in the air. "We have had to suspend the aerial attack while the drone is in the air to ensure the safety of our pilots and crews." Ground crews are still working on the fire, but there is a limited amount of daylight left for safe helicopter operations tonight.



👍👎👤 58 11 Comments 20 Shares

Northland - Fire and Emergency
1 October · 🌐

Whangarei local resident Brian, aka Ollie, has been appointed as Honorary Fire Safety Ambassador-Northland District, a perfect role for the feline who lives next to our District Office.

Rumour has it that Brian is one of the most knowledgeable members of the team because the affectionate neighbour loves spending time here, contributing to meetings and attending training.

One of his Oscar-worthy performances was to play a cat that was rescued during an evacuation. Ka pai te mahi, Brian!

Like our page if you want to learn more about fire safety from Brian in the future!



👍👎👤 65 21 comments 21 shares

OFFICIAL DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGES FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY

In September, Fire and Emergency stood up 17 new Districts reflecting our unified organisation. With this, we have established official Fire and Emergency Facebook pages for each District.

These pages are used by Districts for risk reduction and community engagement and are now official sources of public information during emergencies. They will also be a great way to reach each District for things like fire season changes, which are specific for each area.

On 22 October, multiple fire crews battled a significant scrub fire on the Naenae hills in Lower Hutt. The Wellington District Facebook page — which had been launched two months earlier — was used by the crews to post updates for the public. The posts were shared widely — including by local councils and community groups. The Facebook page was quickly seen as the official source of information during the fire.

Another example was the fire at the wastewater treatment plant in Bromley, Christchurch on 1 November. The smoke from the fire could be seen widely and concerned residents were able to get information and updates from the Canterbury District Facebook page.

Each District page has been developing its own local voice. Brian the cat is the Honorary Fire Safety Ambassador for the Northland District. He has a strong presence on their District Facebook page, and his posts are well received by the community. Recently Brian starred in a local Guy Fawkes safety video, helping to reach a wider audience than a traditional Guy Fawkes safety Facebook post would.

All the District pages will also be verified with the official blue tick by Facebook in the coming weeks.

Our team is always keen to hear about great stories and photos we can share on the national Fire and Emergency page or offer to one of the District pages. Send your ideas through to media@fireandemergency.nz



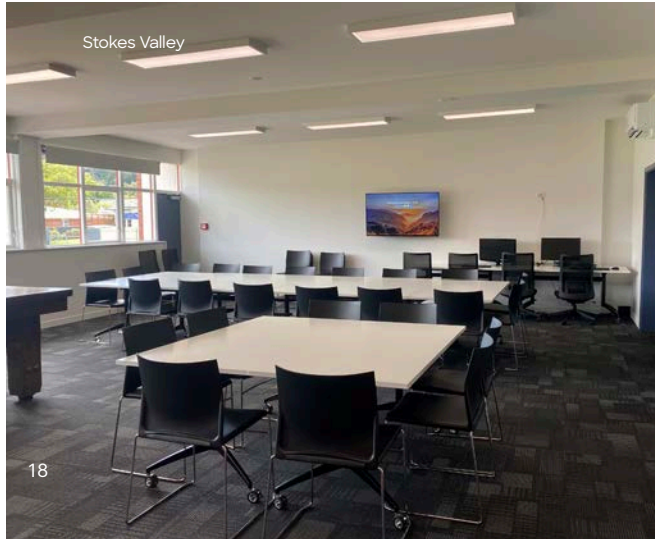
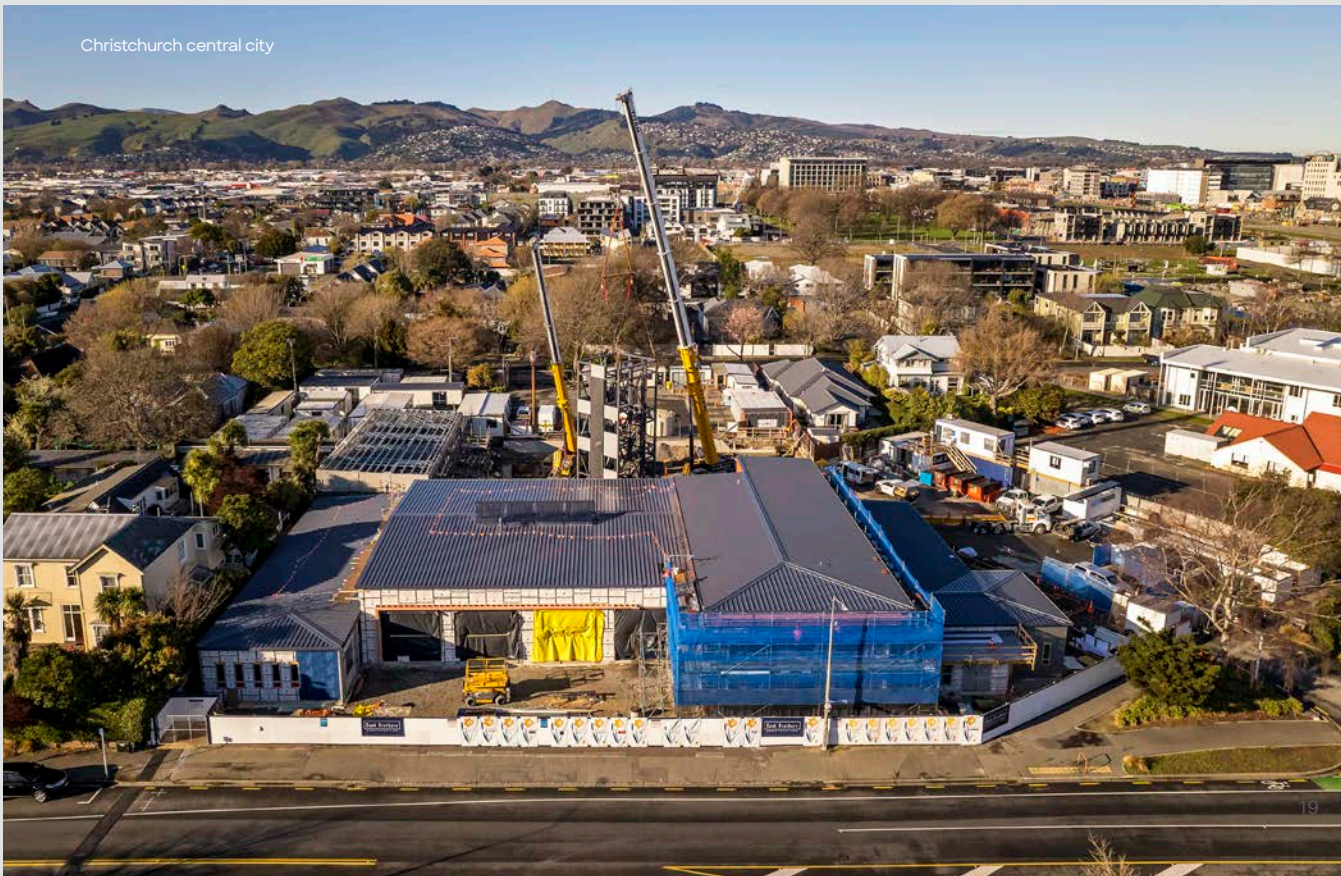
FULL STEAM AHEAD ON FIRE STATIONS

In July last year, we received a funding boost of over \$50 million to complete rebuilds and upgrades for 26 fire stations. The additional funding came from the Government's COVID Response Recovery Fund (CRRF) and the last project of the programme – Kaikōura station – is expected to finish in July 2022.

Twelve stations have been completed and their crews have settled into their new, fit-for-purpose digs: Appleby, Athol, Cavalli, Featherston, Greymouth, Greytown, Kawakawa Bay, Ōkaihau, Paeroa, Pōkeno, Titahi Bay, and Seaview.

The 14 remaining projects are under way and progressing well: Balclutha, Christchurch Central, Darfield, Kaikōura, Makarora, Napier, Peel Forest, Taihape, Stokes Valley, Rangitata Gorge, Sumner, Waihi, and Waipawa.

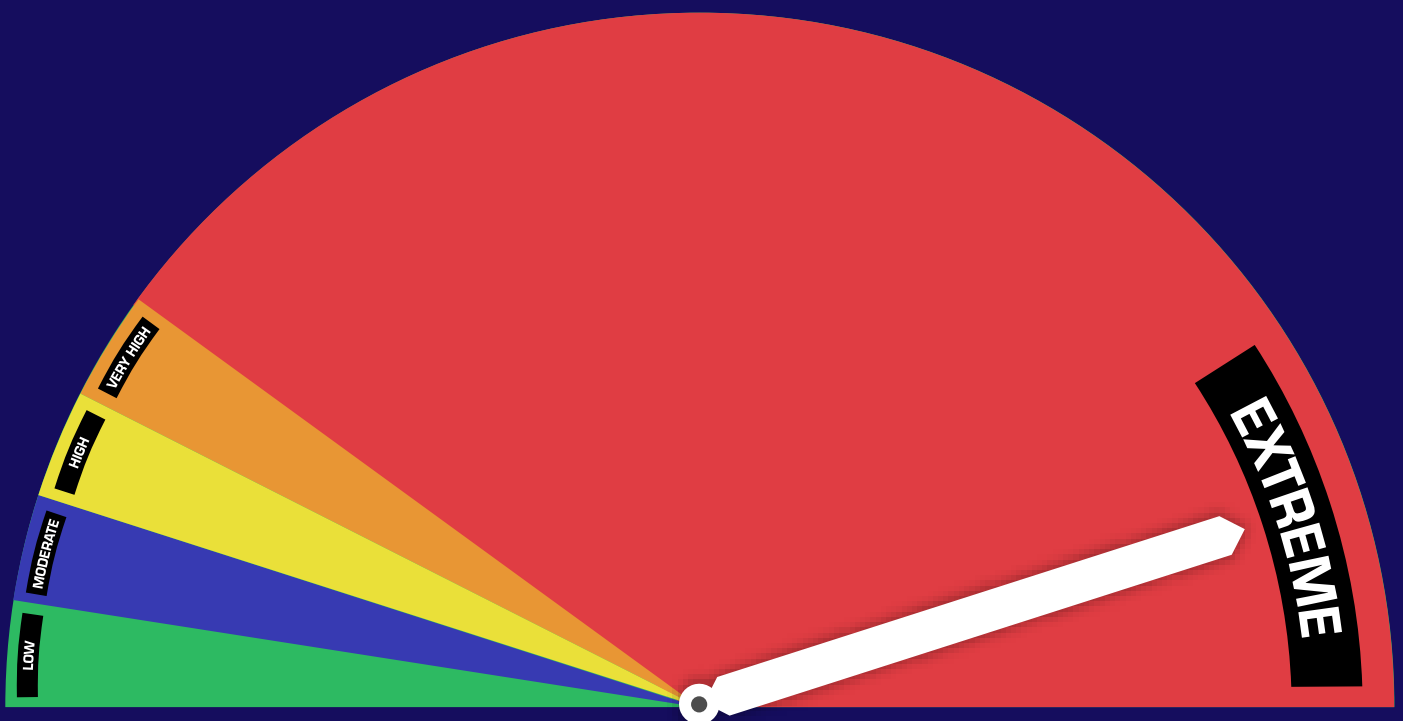
Here is a snapshot of completed and in-progress projects.



IF YOU'RE NOT READY, THE RISK IS ALWAYS EXTREME.

Help defend your home and property from wildfires by keeping grass short, and clearing dead leaves and debris from gutters and around decks.

Fire Gets Real Fast, so learn more about how you can be prepared at checkitsalright.nz



WHAKARATONGA IWI

FIRE
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NEW ZEALAND