

3 November 2017

Facts and Figures from the Port Hills fires

- The fire lasted from 13 February to 20 April, taking 66 days to be declared fully extinguished.
- Tragically, the fire claimed one life. That of helicopter pilot and decorated soldier, Steve Askin.
- Thankfully, there were no other serious physical injuries to firefighters or residents.
- Originally two fires, starting in Early Valley Road and Marley's Hill, they merged to become one inferno.
- It ravaged 1,661 hectares of land, the equivalent of 1,600 rugby fields.
- At its peak, the fire had 100,000 kilowatts of energy, the equivalent of up to four atom bombs.
- More than 300 firefighters from across the South Island, including two crews from Dunedin, responded.
- Between Monday 13th and Friday 17th in excess of 900 calls came in to 111, the majority of which were Port Hills related.
- Fourteen helicopters and more than 100 appliances and water tankers were deployed.
- Nine homes were lost and five others suffered damage.

