

Fire Danger Forecast

Forecast: Friday, 15 December – Wednesday, 20 December

Issued: Friday 15 December 2017

Weekend (Saturday, Sunday):

North Island:

Fire Danger	Location
High	Coastal areas of Taranaki, Wanganui & Manawatu, Wellington, and parts of Wairarapa and Hastings
Very High	
Extreme	

Fire danger comments:

- This weekend, **High** fire danger is forecasted for coastal areas of Taranaki, Wanganui & Manawatu, Wellington, and parts of Wairarapa and Hastings. Due to underlying dry conditions and anticipated warm temperatures and moderately strong winds.
- Elsewhere, the fire danger is set for **Low to Moderate** over the weekend. Due to forecasted rainfall, and high humidity.

Key message:

- Rainfall during the week has led to improvements in soil and fuel moisture levels for many locations across the North. This is providing a brief respite for the fire dangers in the lower North Island. However, it has not been enough rainfall to reduce the risk of wildfires in drier regions, as the fire dangers remain **High** in some locations.

South Island:

Fire Danger	Location
High	North Canterbury, coastal Tasman & parts of Central Otago, Coastal Tasman and Mid Canterbury
Very High	North Canterbury
Extreme	

Fire danger comments:

- This weekend, **High** fire danger is forecasted for North Canterbury, coastal Tasman & parts of Central Otago, and mid Canterbury. This is due to underlying dry conditions and anticipated warm temperatures.
- **Very High** fire danger is also forecasted for parts of North Canterbury.

Key message:

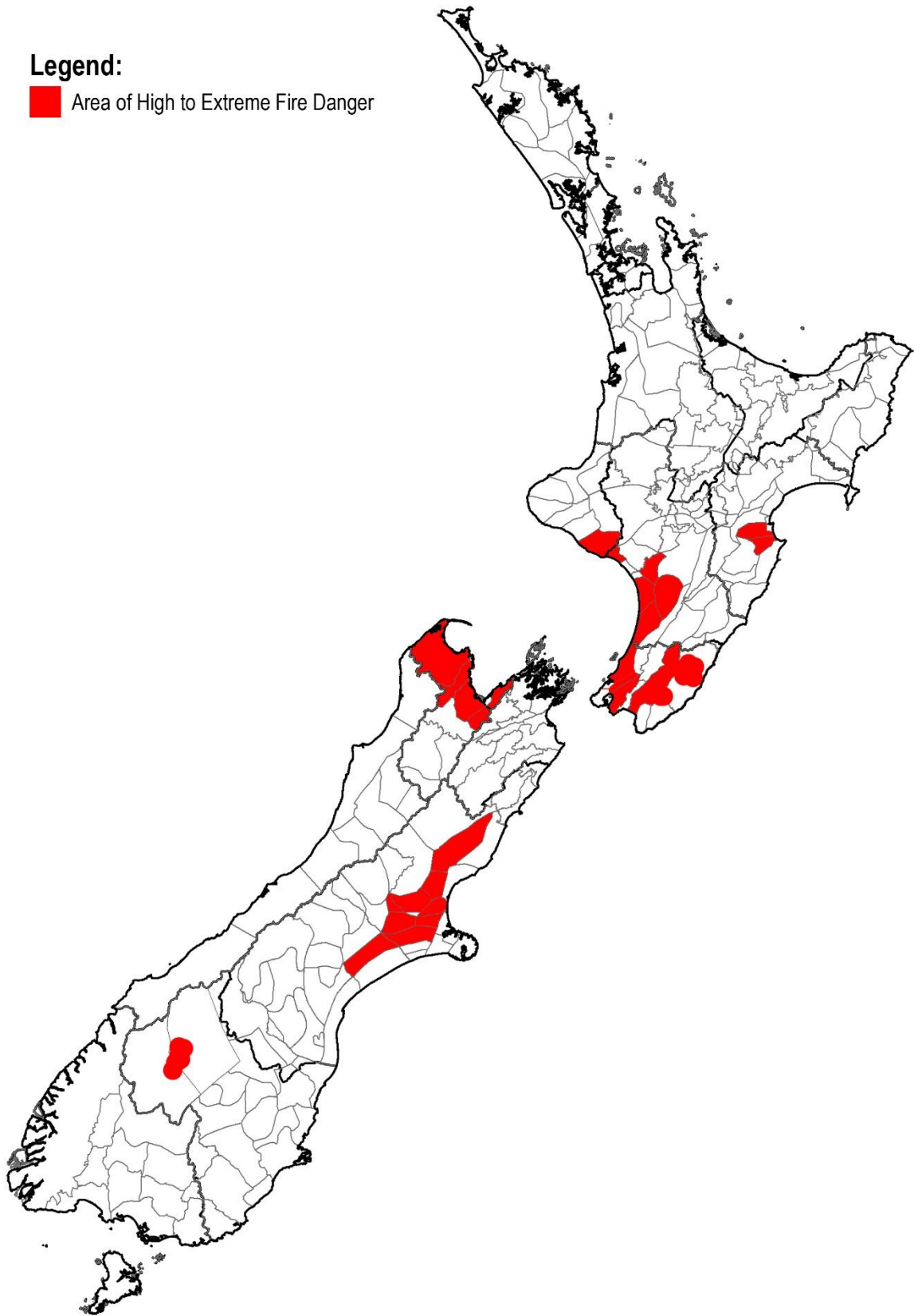
- Rainfall during the week has led to improvements in soil and fuel moisture levels for locations across the South Island, most notably for much of Canterbury, Otago and Marlborough. Small pockets of North Canterbury remain dry (but have decreased in size and strength).
- Signs of drying are occurring in Tasman, Nelson and southern Southland.

Weekend (Saturday, Sunday):

Note: Based on a 2-day forecast issued: **15 December 0545** (NZLAM model)

Legend:

 Area of High to Extreme Fire Danger



Next week (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday):

North Island:

Fire Danger	Location
High	Coastal Wanganui & Kapiti, west coast from Wanganui to Wellington, and in parts of Wairarapa, Napier, parts of Waikato (especially Waipa district)
Very High	
Extreme	

Fire danger comments:

- Into the week, **High** fire danger is forecasted for the lower North Island. This includes the west coast from Wanganui to Wellington and in parts of Wairarapa.
- By mid-week, **High** fire danger is expected for parts of Waikato (Waipa district), Napier, coastal Wanganui, Kapiti and Wellington. This is due to the expected return of High pressure and associated dry weather.
- Elsewhere, grass and forest fire danger remains **Low** to **Moderate** due to expected rainfall, high humidity and cooler temperatures.

Key message:

- For those who are planning to light a fire in the outdoors, you will need to check out the fire season status. A Restricted fire season is in place for most areas of the North Island, which means you need a permit and to comply with those conditions.
- So, remember “**before you light, check it’s alright**” on www.checkitsalright.nz

South Island:

Fire Danger	Location
High	Marlborough including the Marlborough Sounds, Mackenzie
Very High	
Extreme	

Fire danger comments:

- Moving into the week, a series of fronts will provide rainfall to most areas of the South Island, leading to improvements in the fire danger conditions. However, the upper south (Marlborough) will likely miss out on this rain.
- Early in the week, **High** fire danger is forecasted for parts of Marlborough, including the Marlborough Sounds, due to dry conditions and moderate winds.
- Mid-week, parts of the Mackenzie basin and Queenstown lakes regions will also experience **High** fire danger
- The chance of rain, cooler temperatures and higher humidity will reduce the fire danger to **Low** to **Moderate** across the remainder of the South Island.

Key message:

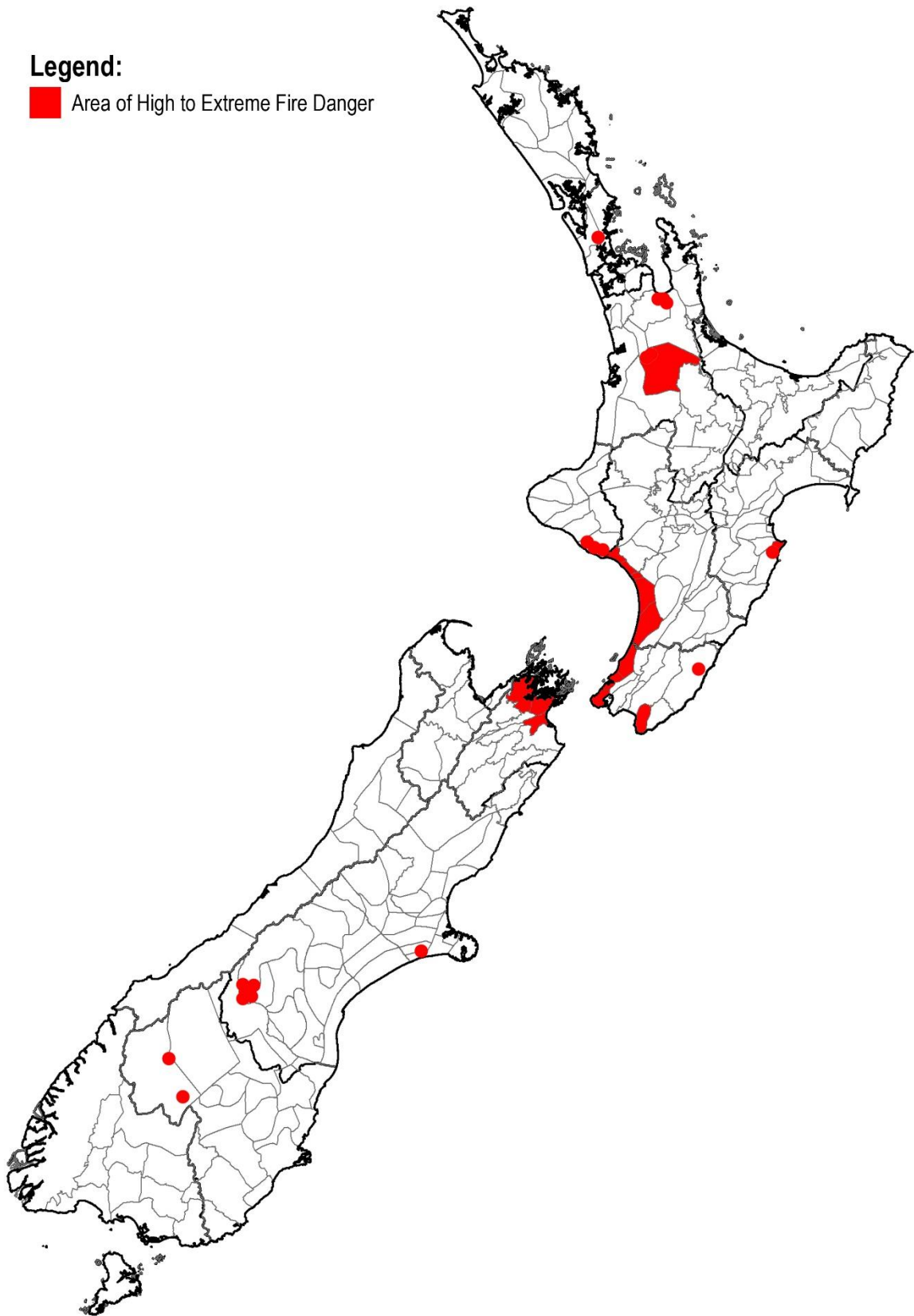
- Rain has helped in easing conditions for many. However, Fire dangers remain High in some locations.
- A Restricted fire season is in place for much of the South Island, which means you need a permit and comply with those conditions. A Prohibited season is also in place for much of the Otago region, this means no fires in the outdoors unless you have a permit from Fire and Emergency.
- Stay up-to-date with the fire danger at: <https://fireweather.niwa.co.nz/>

Next week (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday):

Note: Based on a 6-day forecast issued **14 December 1745** (GLOBALUM model)

Legend:

 Area of High to Extreme Fire Danger



For those who are planning to light a fire in the outdoors, you will need to check out the fire season status, so remember “**before you light, check it’s alright**” on www.checkitsalright.nz

High fire danger means any fires that do start will be more difficult to control using conventional means (water under pressure and heavy machinery).

Take care to avoid activities that could spark a wildfire, and consider postponing planned burns until weather conditions (especially wind strength) are more favourable.

Extreme fire danger conditions mean that any fire that starts is potentially uncontrollable.

Please do not light fires, check previous burn areas for flare-ups, and take extra care to avoid any activities that could spark a wildfire.

A **total fire ban** means no fire in the outdoors, and taking extra care to avoid any activities that could spark a wildfire, as Extreme fire danger conditions mean that any fire that starts is likely to be uncontrollable.

Disclaimer:

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