

Fire Danger Forecast

Friday 8th - Wednesday 13th December
Issued: Friday 8th December 2017

Fire danger comments:

Weekend (Saturday, Sunday):

North Island:

Weekend:

- Conditions continue to dry out for the lower North Island.
- This weekend, **Extreme** forest fire danger is forecasted for the Wairarapa region, with dry conditions and strong winds.
- Wellington, Napier and Gisborne will also experience **High** to **Very High** forest fire danger due to the forecast winds.
- Elsewhere, forecasted rainfall will keep the grass and forest fire dangers Low to Moderate over the weekend.

Key message:

- Extreme fire danger for Wairarapa this weekend.
- Please be careful this weekend – do not light fires, check previous burn areas for flare-ups, and avoid using machinery that could spark a wildfire. It's important that before you light, check it's alright www.checkitsalright.nz

South Island:

Weekend:

- A continuing absence of rainfall for parts of the South Island means conditions are dry especially along the east coast. Fire danger is set to increase over the coming days.
- Leading into the weekend these dry conditions, combined with hot Northwesterly winds, will ramp up the fire danger to **Extreme** for parts of Marlborough, North Canterbury and Southland.
- South Canterbury, Central Otago will also experience **High** to **Very High** forest fire danger due to the high temps, low humidity and underlying dry conditions.
- Light rain will help in some areas over night with conditions easing for parts of Southland and southern Otago by Sunday, reducing the fire dangers to Low or Moderate.
- A hot dry couple of weeks means that many locations will be changing their fire season status.

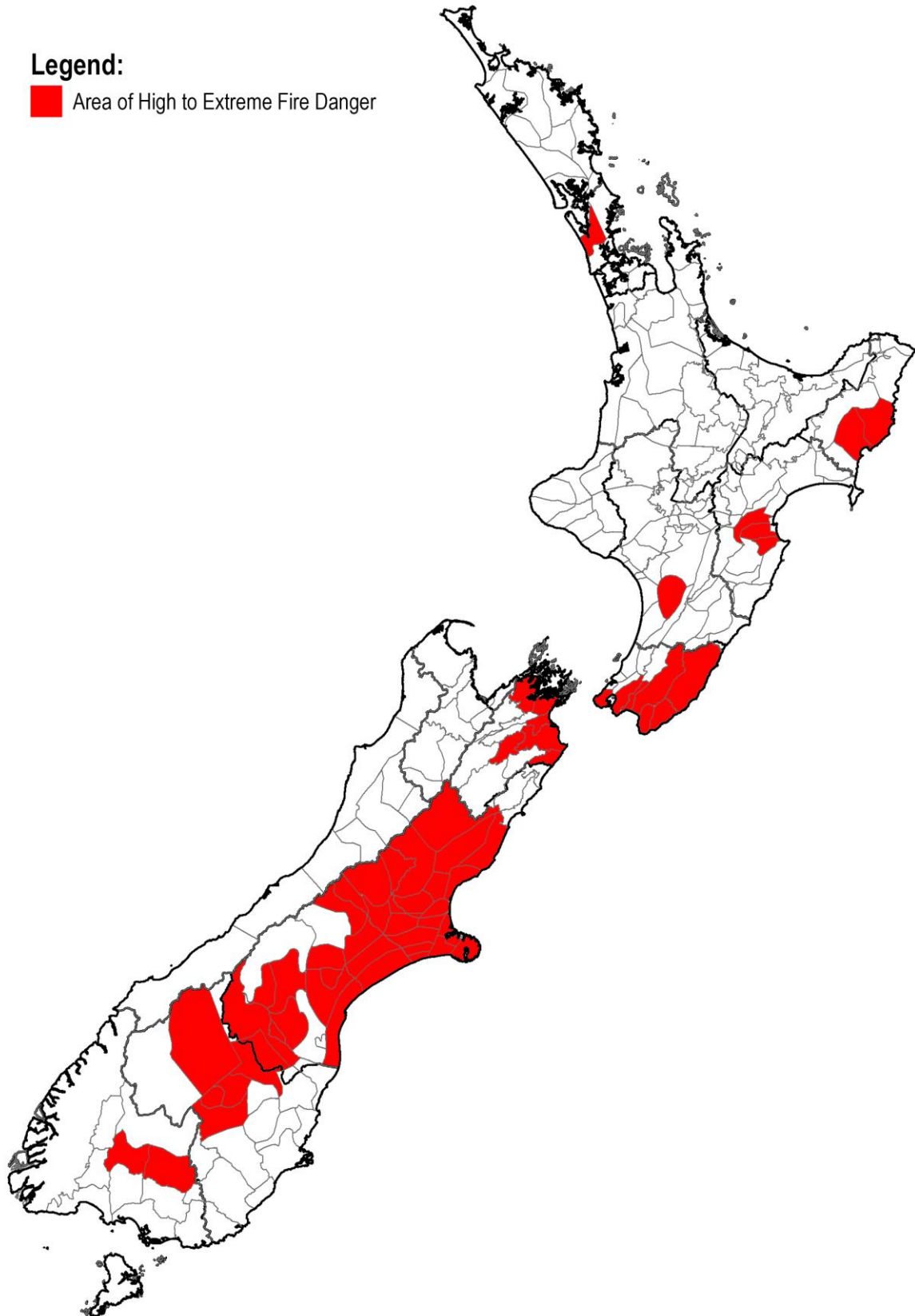
Key message:

- Fire danger is set to increase over the weekend. Extreme fire danger for North Canterbury and parts of Marlborough, and Southland.
- Please be careful this weekend – do not light fires, check previous burn areas for flare-ups, and avoid using machinery that could spark a wildfire. It's important that before you light, check it's alright www.checkitsalright.nz

Weekend (Saturday, Sunday):

Legend:

■ Area of High to Extreme Fire Danger



Note: Based on a 2-day forecast issued 7 December 1430 (NZLAM model)

Fire danger comments:

Next week (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday):

North Island:

Next week:

- Into the week, grass and forest fire dangers for much of the North Island will be **Moderate**.
- However, the lower North Island will experience **Very High** to **Extreme** forest fire danger due to underlying dry conditions and forecast winds.
- Early in the week, **Extreme** forest fire danger is forecast for Wairarapa. High to **Very High** forest fire danger is expected for parts of Gisborne, Manawatu and Wellington.
- The chance of light showers for some on Tuesday will bring higher humidity and cooler temperatures that will provide relief. However, it is likely that many parts might not get enough rainfall to substantially reduce their risk of wildfires.
- As a result, we will likely see a return to **Very High** fire danger by mid-week for coastal areas of Taranaki, Wanganui, Central Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa.

South Island:

Next week:

- Moving into the week there is no reprieve in the hot, dry conditions for the east coast of the South Island.
- **Extreme** forest fire danger is forecasted for North and South Canterbury, and parts of Marlborough and Central Otago, due to dry conditions, warm temperatures and low RH.
- The chance of light showers for some on Tuesday will bring higher humidity and cooler temperatures that will provide some relief. However, it is likely that most parts will not get enough rainfall to reduce their risk of wildfires. We will likely see a return to **Very High** and **Extreme** fire danger by mid-week.
- Fire dangers on the West Coast will be significantly reduced by forecasted rainfall, so this region will experience **Low** grass and forest fire danger.
- With extreme conditions forecasted in eastern areas, we advise taking care with any activities that could cause sparks, as the risk of a fire starting and spreading is high.

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.

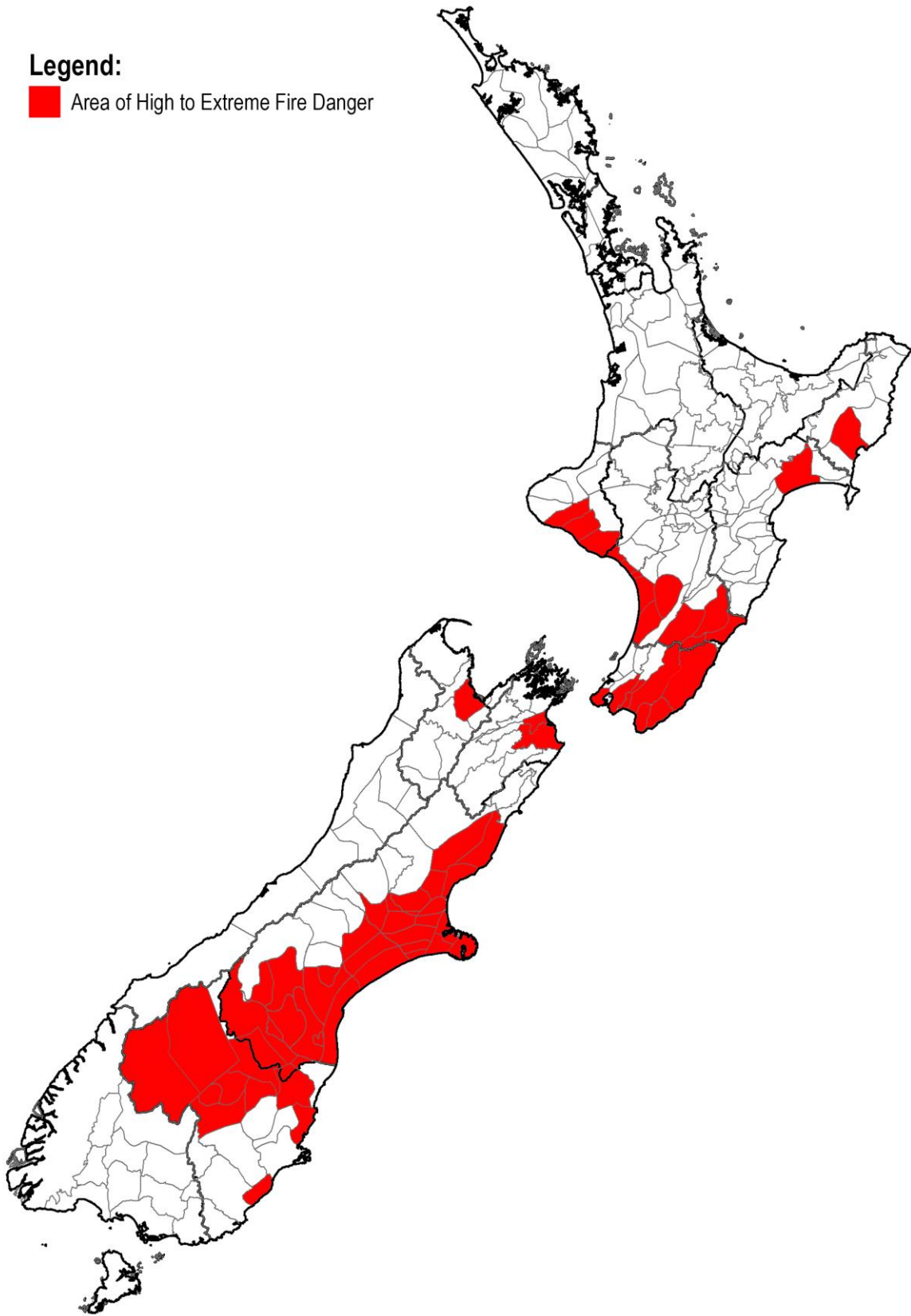
Disclaimer:

The above information is not intended to be a substitute for specific specialist advice on fire risk or seasonal restrictions. It has been provided in good faith and on the basis that every endeavour has been made to exercise reasonable care, skill and judgment in providing such information. Neither Scion, nor any of its employees, accepts any responsibility or liability in respect of any information or opinions provided

Next week (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday):

Legend:

 Area of High to Extreme Fire Danger



Note: Based on a 6-day forecast issued 7 December 1730 (GLOBALUM model)