

Information and updates for residents affected by the Pigeon Valley Fire, from Nelson Tasman Civil Defence and our fire response partners



Tuesday 19 February 2019

Getting you back home – what you need to know

Plans are well advanced for getting Redwood, Teapot and Eves Valley residents home. Controller Roger Ball announced today that, all going well, residents will have conditional re-entry from Thursday morning. This means you will be able to go home, stay overnight, and come and go as you wish. The condition is that you remain ready to evacuate again immediately if the situation changes and the fire risk increases again.

The final decision on your conditional re-entry will be made on Thursday morning, based on a detailed risk assessment including progress on fighting the fire, the weather forecast, and the ability of the emergency services and defence force to evacuate everyone safely if necessary. Safety is the top priority so we can't guarantee that this will go ahead on Thursday – that is what we are working towards.

Please come to the community meeting at the Hope Community Church in Ranzau Road, Hope, tomorrow night (Wednesday) from 6-8pm. Fire and Emergency NZ staff will be giving residents from each of the valleys a detailed briefing about returning home, relevant to your own situation.

Please share this with your neighbours. We will livestream the first part of the meeting with the general update on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/nelsontasmancivildefenceandemergencymanagement but we won't be able to film all three individual briefings for each valley so please come if you can.

Restricted access for residents tomorrow (Wednesday)

A decision on restricted access for Valleys residents will be made first thing in the morning and we will advise residents with a text message around 7.30am. We will also post on the website and Facebook page. If you haven't had a text by 7.45am you may like to check the Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Facebook page www.facebook.com/nelsontasmancivildefenceandemergencymanagement and our website www.nelsontasmancivildefence.co.nz

Access for contractors to properties in the Valleys

If you need to have a contractor, insurance assess or other advisor visit your property in the restricted area, please make sure they apply for access first by calling Tasman District Council on 03 543 8400.

Community meeting at 6pm tomorrow

The community meeting will be held tomorrow, Wednesday 20 February from 6pm at the Hope Community Church in Ranzau Road.

It will include a detailed briefing and important health and safety information for anyone returning home from Thursday. You will also be able to talk to people from MPI about any animal welfare issues, health representatives, and our welfare team will be there. We are also inviting people from MSD and MBIE for anyone who wants to discuss financial assistance.

Update from Ministry for Primary Industries

Animal welfare update

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) encourages anyone who is able to conditionally return home to make sure you have plans in place for your animals should you need to re-evacuate.

While you still have restricted access to your property, ensure you leave enough food and water for two to three days each time you visit, in case the cordons close at short notice or the conditional re-entry is cancelled.

MPI staff will be at tomorrow's community meeting at Hope Church, and will be available to talk through any animal welfare issues you may have as you prepare to return home.

More information

We are posting the latest information and updates on the Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Facebook page www.facebook.com/nelsontasmancivildefenceandemergencymanagement. This includes live-streaming the community meetings and sharing information from Fire and Emergency, MPI and other partner organisations. You might like to "follow" us so our posts are more likely to pop up in your newsfeed.

Our updates are also online at www.nelsontasmancivildefence.co.nz/