

Media Factsheet – Fire and Emergency New Zealand

1 July 2017

What's happening?

- On 1 July 2017, the New Zealand Fire Service, the National Rural Fire Authority, 12 enlarged rural fire districts and 26 territorial authority rural fire authorities will amalgamate to form Fire and Emergency New Zealand.
- There will be no disruption to our emergency response – that will always be our number one priority.
- Over time we will build a world-leading, integrated fire and emergency organisation that will better meet the needs of our people and the communities they serve.

Why make these changes now?

- Originally firefighters just focused on fire. Now they do a whole lot more, such as responding to motor vehicle crashes, medical emergencies, hazardous materials spillages, storms, floods, earthquakes and a wide range of rescue situations.
- There are more extreme weather events, and the population is ageing and changing. This is changing the work we do and how we approach it.

What will the organisation look like on July 1 2017?

- The new organisation will be led by a new Chief Executive, Rhys Jones, formerly Chief of the Defence Force. As Chief Executive, Rhys will lead the integration work, while Paul McGill, as National Commander Urban, and Kevin O'Connor, as National Manager Rural, will have operational responsibility for Fire and Emergency New Zealand.
- Five new Regional Managers Rural will work alongside Fire Region Managers (urban) as we work towards full integration over the next three years.
- Firefighters will remain members of their existing stations, volunteer fire brigades, or Volunteer Rural Fire Forces (VRFFs), and support will continue to be provided by National Headquarters
- Local station, brigade, and other contact numbers will be the same.

What is the future look like?

- Over the next three years we will look at how we do our work to ensure we meet our goal of integrating urban and rural fire into one unified organisation that's flexible and responsive to our communities.
- From 2020, we will be one appropriately resourced and integrated organisation delivering consistency of service across the country and able to meet the challenges New Zealand will face in the years ahead.

What about people and equipment?

- Fire and Emergency will have approximately 14,100 people on Day One, with around 11,300 volunteers and 2,800 permanent staff including 141 additional roles.
- The new roles will enable us to improve access to training, administrative support and safety, health and wellbeing support and provide some of the capability that currently exists within.
- We are also investing in the equipment that supports all our firefighters, so that our personnel have the tools they need to serve their communities.

How will the new organisation be funded?

- The total budget will be around half a billion dollars a year.
- This figure includes new funding over four years of up to \$112 million for the transition, and up to \$191 million to primarily provide extra support to volunteer firefighters and to address underinvestment in rural fire services.
- Fire and Emergency NZ has one main source of funding – the levy on property and vehicle insurance – with a small amount of revenue from the Crown and other sources.



Fire and Emergency New Zealand at a glance



74,789

INCIDENTS
ATTENDED

39% of incidents non-fire related

This included:



908

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS



5,382

STRUCTURE FIRES



4,994

VEGETATION FIRES



11,292

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES



5,495

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES



3,183

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Incidents attended last financial year

OUR NETWORK - FIVE REGIONS



Region 1	19%	Region 4	22%
Region 2	17%	Region 5	18%
Region 3	24%		

% of personnel

FIRE STATIONS BY TYPE



Volunteer stations	360	Composite ¹ stations	33
Career stations	46	Rural fire forces	196

¹ Volunteer and career.

Notes to Editors

Fire and Emergency New Zealand Infographic available as a print ready PDF. Download from <http://fenzproject.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Fire-and-Emergency-New-Zealand-at-a-glance.pdf>

From 1 July, the New Zealand Fire Service and Rural Fire Authorities will cease to exist. Please use the term 'Fire and Emergency New Zealand' (Fire and Emergency NZ) when referring to fire services above brigade or rural fire force level in news stories.

To find out more about the transition to Fire and Emergency New Zealand, visit www.fenzproject.co.nz