

# Media Release



11 October 2012

## Restricted fire season begins

**Anyone wanting to light an open fire in a rural area must now have a fire permit from their local authority. The restricted fire season began on 1 October, signalling the end of the open fire season.**

Although it may not feel like summer yet, periods without rain can cause open fires to easily get out of hand. The fire permit system makes Council's Rural Fire officers aware of any open fires in the District, ensuring they are being controlled. This keeps our communities safe and protects our environment.

Those wanting to apply for a fire permit need to submit their application to Council 48 hours prior to when they are planning their fire to ensure that their permit is processed in time. Forms to apply for a fire permit can be obtained from Council offices on Lake Terrace and in Turangi and Mangakino or by phoning 07 376 0899.

All applicants must sign the permit before it is issued.

The restricted fire season will continue throughout summer and into the new year with an end date yet to be set.

For more information, please contact Principal Rural Fire Officer, Phil Parker, on 027 493 0557 or email [pparker@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:pparker@taupo.govt.nz).

END

*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:*

***Phil Parker • Emergency Manager • 07 376 0803 • 027 493 0557***

***Vicki Waterhouse • Communications Advisor • 07 376 0718 • 027 644 1129***

***Leola Abraham • Communications Manager • 07 376 0762 • 021 227 3781***

***Taupō District Council***

**[www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz)**