

# CLUTHA DISTRICT COUNCIL

## CAMPING GROUNDS REGULATIONS 1985

### FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Camping-Grounds Regulations have been in force since the beginning of 1986 and they prescribe standards to be provided within grounds used as camp sites for vans, tents and relocatable homes.

It is a requirement of the Regulations that there must be provided adequate Fire Precautions. The purpose of this guidance is to set out the general requirements that should be observed. There may be specific additional requirements that may be required within a particular site in order to take account of peculiar circumstances. It is for this reason that advice should be sought from the Council for individual circumstances.

#### **FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT**

Within communal kitchen areas dry powder extinguishers should be provided. These should be of a minimum capacity of 3.5 kg. Carbon dioxide is an acceptable alternative.

Extinguishers should ideally be located on the outside of the building where they will be readily visible. In order to protect them from misuse and from weather, they should be enclosed within a glass fronted, weather proof box painted red and labelled 'FIRE EXTINGUISHER' In instances where vandalism is likely the Council will accept the box being mounted within the kitchen area provided that it is readily and conveniently accessible. Mounting boxes are required irrespective of whether or not the appliance is internal or external to the building.

All fire extinguishers must be serviced by a competent specialist contractor on an **annual** basis. Service labels must be displayed upon each appliance giving the date and details of the last such service. Security tags must be intact upon each appliance and if for any reason an extinguisher is discharged it must be serviced and the security tag replaced as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter.

#### **SMOKE DETECTION SYSTEMS**

Where sites offer cabin accommodation each cabin must be provided within a smoke alarm which is fitted with 'Hush Buttons' to enable users to silence them for false alarm situations. In order to do this the units must be within reach.

A supply of replacement batteries is also recommended for those instances where the power supply goes walk about. This is a not uncommon phenomenon in the smoke alarm world.

Where there is more than one room within a cabin it may be necessary to install more than one smoke alarm.

#### **NOTICES**

Within cabins information must be displayed giving advice on actions to be followed in the event of a fire. The Council does not require fire fighting appliances to be available within

cabins on the basis that the prime concern is for all occupants to evacuate the building as soon as possible and to alert others to do the same.

The notices should advise of where to assemble and also the location of the nearest fire fighting appliance in case it is essential to have one available.

In the interests of safety, site operators may also wish to consider imposing smoking restrictions within cabins. Smoking in bed poses a significant risk of fire.

## **SECONDARY ESCAPES**

In some cabins where there is more than one room it will be necessary to ensure that any inner room is provided with a secondary means of escape. This can be in the form of installing another external door or alternatively a window may be used provided that the openable area is at least 950 mm high, 750 mm wide and the sill is no more than 900 mm above the floor surface. In cases where the window is too high an internal step may be installed so as to reduce the climbing height.

In order to be effective secondary means of escape need to be unobstructed and furniture therefore needs to be arranged accordingly.

## **ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE**

Electrical faults [either within the supply system or within electrical equipment] are a frequent cause of fire. It is therefore a wise precaution to arrange for the periodic inspection of electrical installations and equipment. Suitably qualified inspectors should be employed for this purpose.

Electrical equipment can also be routinely checked by a simple visual examination of the more obvious faults such as:-

Loose plugs	Burned or discoloured socket outlets or plugs
Broken parts	Frayed or damaged flex cables
Peculiar odours or fumes	

## **SITE CLEANLINESS**

Ensure that all rubbish bins are emptied regularly and removal any loose litter and rubbish quickly.

## **BARBEQUE AREAS/FIRES**

Many camp sites provide purpose built barbeque areas for the convenience of their guests. These also help to discourage visitors from attempting to use their own equipment in areas which may not be suitable.

Make sure that any barbeque is properly maintained and in good working order. Construction should be in accordance with the Building Code and ideally some means of extinguishing a fire should be available appropriate to the type of facility. There are a wide range of options available and appropriate advice should be sought from the Council as to what would be best to suit your circumstances.

Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Council's Environmental Health Officers at:-

Clutha District Council  
Regulatory Services  
1 Rosebank Terrace  
P O Box 25  
BALCLUTHA  
Tel: 03418 1350  
Fax: 03418 3185  
E-mail: bob.draper@cluthadc.govt.nz