

Building a better future



Frequently asked questions

April 2016

New Zealand Fire Service Christchurch property rebuild programme

Our plan will ensure greater Christchurch and surrounding areas have a modern, fit-for-purpose network of fire stations able to meet the needs of local communities.

Q. What is happening in Christchurch?

The New Zealand Fire Service is investing \$50 million over a number of years renewing, repairing, and rebuilding fire stations across Christchurch. This covers 12 new stations in greater Christchurch and surrounding area, and will ensure the city has a modern, fit-for-purpose network of volunteer and career stations able to meet the needs of its communities.

Post-earthquakes we focussed initially on re-establishing our operations, so we could continue to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

In 2012 and 2013, a detailed fire station network planning and consultation exercise occurred involving all stakeholders. This involved identifying optimal fire station locations in order to meet the needs of our communities well into the future.

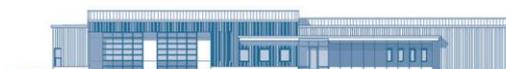
The proposed programme of work was then approved by the Fire Service Commission at the end of 2013. Since then we have been heavily involved in land acquisitions, detailed feasibility and site assessments (planning, geotechnical investigations etc.), consultation, negotiation, design and consenting work.

Q: What has the Fire Service been doing to progress this since the earthquakes?

We have had to consider in excess of 100 sites around the city for new fire station locations, as many options failed to meet operational requirements on detailed review, or were not feasible for other technical reasons.

OUR CHRISTCHURCH REBUILD PRINCIPLES:

- Keeping our communities **safe**.
- Ensuring our facilities match the **needs** of Christchurch communities.
- Open, honest and **transparent** discussions with community leaders, residents and our people.
- Stations will be sited in **optimal locations** and are designed to be interdependent on one another.



In addition, we have been working through the Christchurch City Council Proposed District Plan process over the last 18 months in order to meet current and future strategic needs of the New Zealand Fire Service.

We are progressing to construction on the new stations as soon as possible. We are very aware of how long a redevelopment programme of this scale can take and are grateful for the understanding and patience shown by our people in Christchurch. Everyone is excited about starting several new fire stations this year.

Q. Where are the stations?

The network will include seven new stations operated 24/7 by career firefighters. Four will be built in new locations: Sockburn, Wainoni (ANZAC), Ilam and Redwood, and three will be built at existing locations: Addington, Woolston, and City.

Q: What about Volunteer stations?

Five new volunteer stations are also being built in the greater Christchurch area. Southbridge and Rangiora have been completed, Lyttelton began in March 2016, followed by stations at Spencerville and Kaiapoi.

Q. What are the key timeframes?

Resource consents for Addington, Woolston and Sockburn have been granted. Demolition and ground remediation work for Addington have been completed and Woolston is set to start in May/June. This will be followed by construction for all three beginning mid-year. Resource consent has been lodged for ANZAC. Resource consent lodgement for City, Redwood and Ilam will follow.

Q: What else is happening in Christchurch?

This work is in addition to the provision of high quality temporary facilities, together with urgent repair and strengthening work, which was required to ensure the New Zealand Fire Service continues to meet the needs of its communities after the earthquakes.

Q: Are Fire Service employees still working out of portacoms at the Woolston and Central Christchurch stations?

Yes, some Fire Service employees are still working in temporary facilities at Woolston, City, New Brighton, and St Albans. It should be noted that our people are not working out of temporary accommodation at Addington, Sockburn, and Harewood. These stations were essentially unharmed during the earthquakes.

Q: What's happening at City station?

City is still in the design phase.

Q: Five years after the quakes, why are the new stations yet to be built?

It is important to note approval was granted in October 2013 for the Christchurch rebuild programme. Identifying and securing suitable land parcels that meet operational needs, and then designing and building a modern network takes time.

The Christchurch Rebuild programme of work continues to have the highest priority and focus. A huge amount of background consultation, planning, investigation, and negotiation has been required to bring us to the point where construction can begin.

Q: What are the steps involved?

As with any commercial building projects, a number of steps must be completed before construction begins. This includes detailed site investigations including geotech and ground surveys, land acquisition and remediation, resource consents, and consultation with key stakeholders, amongst others.

The New Zealand Fire Service has taken a 'Greenfield' approach to its re-development programme, taking the opportunity to locate its fire stations where they can best meet the future needs of Christchurch communities.

Q: What is the process of involving firefighters in the design and rebuild process?

A programme governance team oversees the rebuild programme and ensures firefighters are fully engaged from concept designs to construction.

Each station build has a design team, including firefighters (career and/or volunteer), area management, property team members, and external consultants (architects, engineers, quantity surveyors).

The New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union and United Fire Brigades' Association have been extensively involved in this work.

The New Zealand Fire Service and our people in Christchurch understand the massive complexities involved in such a programme, in particular:

- acquiring suitably located land parcels that meet our operational needs
- the construction environment post-earthquakes
- the complex planning and consenting environment
- land damage, feasibility and due diligence processes.