

Lodge Briefing (2017 version)

Introduction

This briefing is so we can keep you safe in the lodge. It's also a legal requirement.

Fire is our number one risk, because the alpine environment is very dry and there is no fire brigade on the mountain. This means that any fire will take hold very quickly and be very hard to control

So,

- Be very careful to not start a fire
- If a fire does start, be ready to leave the lodge promptly



There have been several Ruapehu lodges destroyed by fire - [TTC](#) in 1954 (left), [Ngauruhoe](#) in 1988, [Forest & Bird](#) (right) in 2008 and Aorangi (substantially damaged) in 2015.

Fire Safety

Fire Prevention

- No Smoking anywhere in the lodge. Smoking is only permitted well outside the lodge. Please be considerate with your butts - make sure they are out and placed in the rubbish bin in the ski room
- Don't dry clothes or gear on bunk room heaters. Use the drying room.
- Keep packs and gear clear from bunk room heaters.
- No candles, stoves or any naked flame in the lodge
- Don't leave drying room heater/dehumidifier on overnight.
- Don't leave dining room / lounge heaters on overnight.
- Unplug USB chargers when you're not in the room with them. Use the electrically certified one in the dining room instead.

In the event of a fire

- Shout; "FIRE, FIRE"
- Activate the nearest fire alarm.
 - These are located by the Fire Exit door to the deck; the front door in the ski room and by the back fire exit in bunk room four.

- Dial 111, advise that there is a fire at the **Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club Lodge at Whakapapa Ski field, Bruce Road, Iwikau village**. The fire alarm doesn't notify the fire service automatically.

Lodge Evacuation

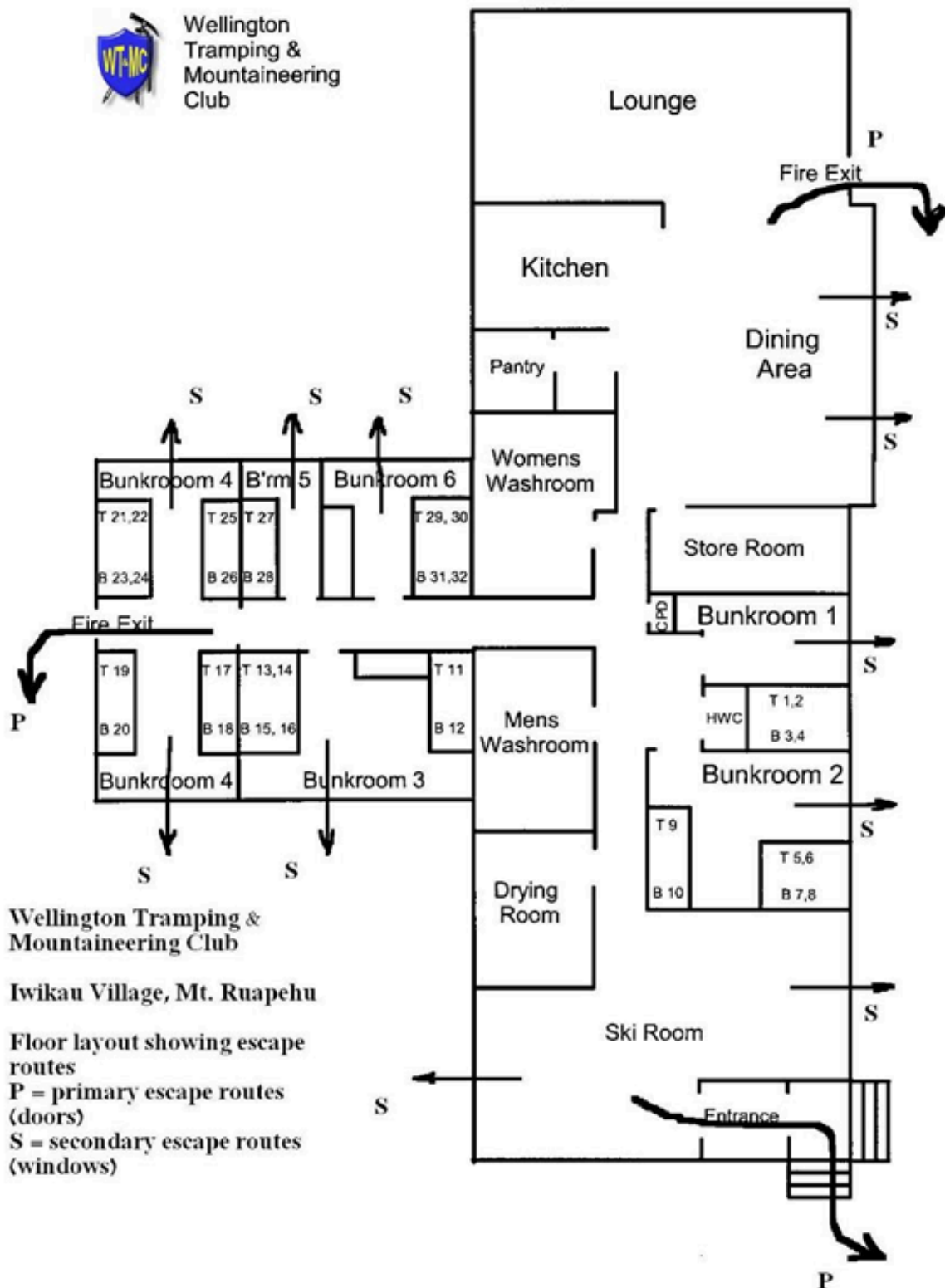
- Lodge exits are the front door, lounge deck door and the door at the end of the bunk wing. Familiarize yourself with the locations of these.
- You can vacate the bunk rooms via the window. However, this may not be possible if there is snow and ice built up outside the window.
- Keep a torch, jacket and outside footwear near your bed at night.
- Assemble at the Serac Lodge
- DO NOT re-enter the lodge

Firefighting equipment

- Fire Extinguisher: in the kitchen, on the end of the servery, in the ski room and in every bunkroom.
- Fire blankets —located in the kitchen near the end of the kitchen server by the microwave and fridge.
- Fire Buckets- these are orange buckets with water in them, located under the ski room work bench. Water is obtained by lifting the floor hatch in the ski room floor; which is under the seats, in the right hand corner.

Only attempt to fight the fire if you have sounded the alarm already and it is safe to do so.

Fire Escape Routes



Mountain Safety

The Lodge is located in an alpine environment and on the slopes of an active volcano. The Lodge is located at 1600m above sea level – the top of the mountain is around 2700m.

When you go out

Before leaving the Lodge, at any time (day or night) and for any reason:

- Make sure someone else knows where your intentions are and when to expect you back.
- Make sure you have adequate clothing. Even on a fine day, make sure you have gloves, hat and a wind-proof layer.
- Drink plenty before you head out and while you are on the mountain. Because of the altitude, dehydration can occur even on cold and overcast days.
- Take precautions for sunburn and wind burn.

Volcanic Eruption

The major hazard in the event of an eruption is from lahars. Lahars are flows of water, snow and other debris from an over flow of the crater lake. Lahars can flow down the mountain at very high speeds.

- In the event of an eruption, sirens will sound on the ski field.
- If you are on the mountain, move out of valleys or on to high ground.
- If you are in the Lodge or any building, stay indoors.
- Do not attempt to leave the mountain – the Bruce Road is not safe

There is further information on what to do in a volcanic eruption in the Lodge Leader's Operating Manual.

Avalanches

Avalanches do occur on this mountain. Unless you have adequate experiences, stay within the ski-field boundaries and obey ski patrol signs.

First Aid

In the Lodge

First aid kits can be found in both bathrooms in the drawer under the bench.

If you use anything from the first aid kits, tell the Lodge Leader so they can replenish them from the store room.

On the mountain

During the ski season, contact the ski patrol or call to the Medical centre at the top of the car park (beside the public shelter).

Outside the ski season, if assistance is required, phones can be found at any of the Lodges (if occupied) or any of the ski field facilities that may be operating. There is reasonable cell phone coverage above the bushline in the Whakapapa area.