

Bushfire danger period information for parents and carers

Fact sheet

This factsheet provides information for parents and carers about arrangements for the bushfire danger period.

The NSW Department of Education has engaged external experts to conduct assessments of all NSW government schools, to identify schools at greater risk of impact from bushfires.

To support the health, safety and wellbeing of students and staff, the department, in consultation with NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS), will direct the school to temporarily cease operations on days when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating has been declared for your school's NSW fire area. Alternative learning arrangements will be put in place for these days.

Schools may be made non-operational due to changing risk conditions and the relevant advice from emergency services.



What is a Fire Danger Rating?

Fire Danger Ratings describe the potential level of danger should a fire start. The ratings are determined by a combination of factors including air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought.

For further information on the Australian Fire Danger Rating System, visit rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/fire-danger-ratings-are-changing-soon

Fire Danger Rating sign





When will I know if my child's school has been made non-operational?

At approximately 4:00pm each day the Fire Danger Rating is issued for the following day. This means that schools, including onsite preschools, will be notified after school hours that it will be non-operational the following day. Your school will notify you as soon as possible by the preferred method of communication.

Parents and carers are requested to:

- provide up-to-date home and after-hours contact details to your school
- stay up-to-date with news and local media through the bushfire danger period.



NSW School Updates app

Get the free NSW School Updates app to receive operational status updates for NSW public schools education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/nsw-school-updates-app



What education arrangements will be in place if the school is non-operational?

When non-operational, your school will advise of alternative learning arrangements, including any relocation or learning from home plans.



Learn more

Be prepared and ensure you have a bushfire survival plan in place. The NSW RFS has resources for all residents to plan and prepare for the bushfire season.

Consider whether your home is safe from bushfires and grassfires, and be prepared to relocate to a safer place well in advance. Find more information and resources from the NSW RFS rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare

We appreciate your cooperation during the bushfire season. For further information about Fire Danger Ratings and the bushfire danger period, please refer to [NSW Rural Fire Service rfs.nsw.gov.au](https://www.nsw.gov.au/rural-fire-service)

The department's School Safety website education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety provides up to date information during bushfires and grassfire emergencies.

Please contact your school with any additional questions.



Need help?

Speak to your local Work Health and Safety Advisor for support and advice, or contact the Incident Report and Support Hotline on **1800 811 523**.