



BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS

We like to regularly keep parents notified of the plans in place as we enter bushfire season. The landscape will dry out soon enough and we need to be ready to keep everyone safe.

Our Scotsburn Campus is particularly vulnerable to fires and each year we undertake works to reduce the fuel load around the campus and make sure the buildings are as safe as they can be in the event of a fire.

Having said that, we have every intention of hosting Scotsburn staff and students at the Buninyong Campus on days where the fire risk is high. We are mandated for the Scotsburn Campus to close on days rated as catastrophic, but don't intend to have anyone on site when the fire rating is Extreme.

We will do our best to give Scotsburn families plenty of notice on occasions when the decision is taken to host staff and students at the Buninyong Campus.

A few further things to remember and some resources for parents:

- No staff will be on site at Scotsburn campus on days where the school has been relocated due to a forecast of High, Extreme or Catastrophic day.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.
- On days rated as Catastrophic, country bus routes will be cancelled in affected areas.

Families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.** For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that Scotsburn campus is relocated due to elevated fire danger or a Catastrophic fire forecast. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by talking to your child's teacher or phoning the office to discuss our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's Bushfire Survival Plan.
- You can access current information about school and early childhood services closures, including those due to elevated fire danger, on the Department of Education and Training's website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Multiple sources that offer information on emergencies are listed below:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters