

Our School's procedures for the Bushfire Season

Children's services and schools listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in any Bureau of Meteorology district. **Our School has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register.**



Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by email, Tiqbiz and/or SMS. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will remain on site when the facility is closed due to a forecast Code Red day. On days such as these, families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan.
- For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before, or early on the morning of the Code Red day.
- On all days of high fire risk, **young children should never be left at home in the care of older children.**

As part of preparing our School for the threat of fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan. We will also undertake periodic drills to ensure both staff and students preparedness.

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 our School is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website www.bhcs.vic.edu.au by downloading our communication app, Tiqbiz, and by talking to our staff.
- 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 more information about early childhood services and School closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.