



Education Centre
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SA school & preschool communities prepare for bushfires

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Dear Parent or Carer,

The safety of our children in the bushfire danger season is our first priority.

I am writing to let you know about some important changes to the way that high-risk schools and preschools located in bushfire prone areas will operate during this fire danger season.

The State Government will close high-risk public schools and preschools in specific fire ban districts on days when the fire danger index is forecast at 100 or more - Catastrophic (Code Red) level. Non-government schools will be advised and they will activate their own Bushfire Ready policy.

This means that high-risk schools and preschools will CLOSE when the bushfire weather is forecast at Catastrophic (Code Red) level.

Preventative action to close schools and preschools will be taken to help keep our children and staff safe during the most serious fire danger weather.

How will you know when schools and preschools are to be closed?

- **An ADVANCE WARNING** will be provided by your principal/preschool director **TWO DAYS BEFORE** possible school/preschool closure.
- **A CONFIRMATION** of the closure will be provided by your principal/preschool director the day **BEFORE** your school/preschool is to close (after 4.00 pm, following CFS advice).



If you live in a bushfire prone area or your child attends school in a bushfire prone area, it is important that you prepare for potential school and preschool closures as part of your Bushfire Survival Plan and make alternative arrangements for your child.

Travelling during a bushfire can also be very dangerous so **school buses will NOT run if the school/preschool has been closed** due to bushfire risk.

Act now - prepare for school and preschool closures.

I understand that closures may be inconvenient for some families but I am sure you will appreciate that the risk of bushfire is a serious issue for our community and the safety of our children is most important.

Your principal/preschool director will be in touch with you shortly to explain the contact arrangements for you in the event of school or preschool closures. Please contact them if you have any questions about your school or preschool Bushfire Survival Plan.

Further information is available at www.bushfirereadyschools.sa.gov.au including a full list of high-risk school and preschools.

When Catastrophic (Code Red) level bushfire weather is forecast a parent hotline (1800 000 279) will operate the day before and throughout schools/preschools closures.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Chris Robinson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Department of Education and Children's Services

