

[School procedures for the bushfire season](#)

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire

At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed on days declared by Fire Authorities as a Code Red fire danger day.



Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days notice of a planned closure. We will contact you directly by letter with advice on planned closures and will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before the planned closure.

The communication process at our school will be:

A notice will be sent to all families as soon as we have notification of a Code Red Day. This may be up to 3 days in advance.

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 be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- ◆ Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days
- ◆ School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home 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 Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

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 and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.

If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can access more information about children's services 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 see:

<https://emergency.vic.gov.au>

Facebook ([facebook.com/cfavic](https://www.facebook.com/cfavic))

Twitter (twitter.com/CFA_Updates)

- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)