

BUSHFIRE READY PROCEDURES

As Flagstaff Hill is located in a bushfire prone area, as part of the Mt Lofty Ranges District, we have in place procedures in the event of the following declarations:

- a Catastrophic (Code Red) Level
- a total fire ban

School Procedures – Catastrophic (Code Red)

The State Government will close high-risk public schools in specific fire ban districts on days where the fire danger index is forecast at 100 or more – Catastrophic (Code Red).

This means that Flagstaff Hill R-7 School will close when the bushfire level is forecast as Catastrophic (Code Red). No staff or students will attend Flagstaff Hill R-7 School on this day.

Parents should make provision for the care of their child/ren on days forecast at a Catastrophic Level, within their family's personal bushfire action plan.

An advance warning will be provided to school principals two days before a possible school closure. A confirmation of the school closure will be provided the day before the school is to close (after 4.00pm following CFS advice).

Multiple forms of communication are in place to ensure all parents / caregivers receive and obtain information regarding school closures including:

- letters handed out to all students on the days when the alert is received (only if received before 2.30pm)
- updates on the electronic sign if warnings are received in a timely manner
- emails to all families on our school newsletter email list
- information via classroom blogs
- information via the school website – www.flagstaff.sa.edu.au
- the Bureau of Meteorology – <http://www.bom.gov.au/sa>
- the CFS website – <http://www.cfs.gov.au>
- message left on the school answering machine
- information provided by the evening television and radio news services – please note this is for the Mt Lofty Ranges District
- DECD Hotline number – 1800 000 279

If unsure, you may contact the front office via the phone, however, we ask that families network with each other where possible to minimise the congestion on school phone lines. We will endeavour to make information available to families as early as possible.

Please note, it is your responsibility to know when a Catastrophic Level day is declared for the Mt Lofty Ranges District. The School will not be able to individually contact all parents. Further information is available at [Bushfirereadyschools](#)

School Procedures – Total Fire Ban

Total fire ban days are days of extreme fire danger. All persons on the school site must obey the instructions given by the Principal. Attending school on a total fire ban day is a parental decision.

The school's Bushfire Action Plan (BAP) outlines specific procedures to be undertaken by staff and students at the different levels of emergency on days of a total fire ban:

- Total fire ban day alert – Level 1
- Fire reported in the local district – Level 2
- Fire in the immediate vicinity or impacting on the site – a move to the Bushfire Refuge – Level 3

School staff are aware of these procedures. Emphasis is on communication, controlled action and frequent checking on the presence and safety of students and adults.

On days of extreme fire danger it is recommended that all students bring a named hand towel and water bottle to school. Water bottles can be filled and all towels will be specially stored so that they will be readily available for use in case of a fire. A dampened towel is placed on the head and neck for comfort purposes in the event of fire approaching the school.

Parent Action

Families living in the Mt Lofty Ranges District should prepare their own bushfire action plan.

On total fire ban days students may be collected by a parent or authorised person if this is in line with your family's bushfire action plan. Students remaining at school will be dismissed at the normal time if there is no bushfire reported in the district. In the event of a bushfire reported in the district, students will not be dismissed from school until collected by parents or an authorised adult where students will be supervised.