

Oatlands Primary School

BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS POLICY

RATIONALE

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

Schools that have been identified as being at high fire risk and on the Department's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) (<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/bushfirerisk.aspx?Redirect=1#subK> current as of September 2018) will close on days determined Code Red by the Emergency Management Commissioner.

AIMS

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of the staff and students at Oatlands Primary School in the event of a Code Red fire danger day.

GUIDELINES

In the event of a forecasted Code Red day by the Bureau of Metrology for our school's district, Department of Education and Training policies and procedures will be adhered to.

IMPLEMENTATION

Schools and early childhood services that have been identified as being at high fire risk and on the Department's bushfire at-risk register will close on days determined Code Red by the Emergency Management Commissioner.

Where possible, four to seven days notice of a planned closure will be provided through a Compass notification. Parents and carers should expect that in some instances, fewer than four days notice may be provided.

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 parents with advice before the end of the school day.

Once a Code Red day has been determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner this decision will not change – regardless of any changes in the weather forecast. This will help limit confusion and help your family plan for how your children will be cared for when their school or early childhood service is closed.

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/excursions will be cancelled, postponed, or relocated if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Metrology district in which the camp is



located or if faced with the threat of bushfire. Off-site activities include any activity undertaken by staff/students away from their normal school facility. This can include camps, excursions, sporting activities and training or conferences for staff.

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.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, the school’s Emergency Management Plan will be regularly updated in accordance with DET guidelines, ensuring that we are prepared in the event of a bushfire.

Evaluation:

Date reviewed and approved by School Council	November 2021
Due date for next review by School Council	November 2023

