

Fire Danger Season Information for families



St Francis de Sales
COLLEGE

St Francis de Sales College is located in a High Risk Bushfire Area. While we have an emergency and bushfire response plan for our site, it is important that we are all prepared for a bushfire emergency.

Family Checklist

We all need to be ready for the fire danger season. To keep your children as safe as possible please ensure that you:

- > Read all of the bushfire information provided to you
- > Talk with your children about what will happen if a bushfire occurs when they are at school
- > Update your emergency contact details with the College at the start of the year, or, as they change
- > Make a personal Bushfire Survival Plan for your family and let us know if this will affect your child's attendance.

Catastrophic Fire Danger Days

'Catastrophic' fire danger days occur when conditions are the worst for a bush or grass fire.

If a fire starts and takes hold on a 'Catastrophic Day' it will be extremely difficult to control.

When a Catastrophic fire danger rating is forecast for the following day by the Bureau of Meteorology, ALL 'High Risk' schools and preschools will be closed.

Find out about site closures

Because St Francis de Sales College, Mount Barker, has a 'High Risk' bushfire rating, our site will be closed on a forecast Catastrophic fire danger day.

We will endeavour, where possible, to alert parents/carers about a Catastrophic Fire Day school closure via a SMS Message. Please note however, this may not always be possible.

Please monitor the Bureau of Meteorology website, CFS website and ABC Radio for information updates.

If a bushfire approaches the College

The safety of children in our care is our highest priority if a bushfire approaches our site.

We have a designated shelter in place for bushfires (St Francis de Sales College Community Sports Centre), which is the safest place for staff and students to be in this situation.

Evacuation is our last option unless advised otherwise by emergency services.

When we move to our shelter we:

- > Move everybody inside, close windows and doors
- > Fill all available containers with water
- > Turn on the College sprinklers and irrigation systems if it is safe, and time permits
- > Remain inside with the children until the main fire front passes
- > Listen to ABC Radio and monitor the CFS website for bushfire updates and information.

Collection of children

For the safety of everyone, and on the advice of the Emergency Services, parents/carers are strongly encouraged to delay collecting their children until the danger has passed.

Entering a high risk area hinders access for emergency services and puts the lives of yourself and others at risk.





Staff are on duty and the safety of the children in their care is the first priority.

Continue to monitor ABC Radio and the CFS website for updated information regarding the situation.





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Category	General Advice	Action for schools
 CATASTROPHIC	For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost	SCHOOL CLOSURE and CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL BUS SERVICES for schools in the affected Fire Ban District which have an extreme, very high or high risk rating.
 EXTREME	Take action now to protect your life and property Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous	Catholic Education SA to take advice of fire authorities for Adelaide Hills and other high-risk areas regarding potential for school closure.
 HIGH	Be ready to act Fires can be dangerous	SCHOOL OPEN: normal bushfire plan procedures apply
 MODERATE	Plan and prepare Most fires can be controlled	SCHOOL OPEN: normal bushfire plan procedures apply

St Francis de Sales College has a 'High Risk' bushfire rating

This means:

- > Our site will automatically close on Catastrophic fire danger rating days
- > Our site will be CLOSED, including Alive ELC and Camp Australia's OSHC
- > NO persons (students, staff, contractors, public members etc.) will be allowed on site
- > School Buses/taxis will not operate within the fire ban district
- > Families will need to make alternative arrangements for their children on these days
- > We will make contact via SMS messages as we are informed

Our Contact Number

T: 8393 1000

Further Information

Department for Education and Child Development (DECD)

A copy of the brochure *Bushfire and your Child's School or Preschool* is available from the DECD Bushfire and Emergency Management website: education.sa.gov.au/sites-and-facilities/bushfires-and-emergency-closures/bushfire-information

Country Fire Service (CFS)

CFS Bushfire Hotline: 1300 362 361
cfs.sa.gov.au

SA Emergencies Services Information Line

1800 362 361

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)

bom.gov.au/sa

ABC Radio

ABC Adelaide 891