

Mount Pleasant Primary School

has a 'low risk' bushfire rating.

This means on days of forecast catastrophic fire danger rating, our school/preschool will **remain** open.

Staff who have to travel through Catastrophic Fire Danger areas will make their own risk assessment at the time whether to come to school or not. The school will be informed as soon as is possible.

The school will try to obtain a local relief teacher or a member of the leadership team to take the class.

If threatened by a bushfire all children will move to the stone building and wait for advice from the CFS or other Emergency Services personnel.

We ask parents/carers **NOT** to come and pick up students. The danger of travelling and blocking the road (especially for Ambulances) is too great.

School buses and taxis will not operate within the Fire Ban District.

BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY CONTACTS

School: 8568 2170

Please note that this number may be engaged during an emergency situation and you may not be able to get through immediately.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

DECS Emergency and Crisis Management Website
Department of Education and Children's Services
www.crisis.sa.edu.au

SA Country Fire Service (CFS) Website
www.cfs.org.au
CFS Bushfire Information Line
1300 362 361

During days of forecast catastrophic fire danger rating or an actual bushfire, a Parent Information Hotline will be activated.

PARENT INFORMATION HOTLINE
Ph: 1800 000 279

YOUR CHILDREN

and the

BUSHFIRE SEASON

Important information for Parents and Carers 2013/14



Government
of South Australia

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.



Bushfire season can be an anxious time for children and families.

Our schools and preschools in bushfire prone areas have emergency plans to keep everybody as safe as possible in the event of a bushfire.

Please read this information carefully in the best interests of children.

By being prepared, and acting now, you will help our schools and preschools to be bushfire ready and keep our children as safe as possible.

Thank you for your support.

BEFORE THE BUSHFIRE SEASON

Our schools and preschools prepare for the bushfire season and develop plans for the threat of a bushfire. We consult with fire authorities and building specialists to be better prepared. Our schools and preschools in bushfire prone areas must:

- Complete a Bushfire Safety Audit and checklist.
- Prepare buildings and grounds including clearing gutters, and removing vegetation
- Update their Bushfire Action Plan and inform families of changes.
- Practice bushfire safety drills.
- Ensure power-fail and analogue telephone handsets and battery powered radios are in working order.
- Ask parents and carers to update their emergency contact details.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We ask parents and carers to:

- Read all bushfire information provided.
- Talk to your children about what will happen if a bushfire occurs when they are at school or preschool.
- Make sure your emergency contact details are up-to-date with our school or preschool.

DAYS OF CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER RATING

Catastrophic fire danger rating days are days when the weather conditions mean a fire is more likely to start and is more difficult to control.

When a catastrophic fire danger rating is forecast for the following day by the Bureau of Meteorology, all 'low/medium risk' schools and preschools (such as ours) in the declared Fire Ban District will remain open. School buses and taxis services will not operate within the Fire Ban District.

Parents and carers will need to make alternative transport arrangements for their children on these days.

Please make sure your emergency contact details are updated before the bushfire season starts.

APPROACHING BUSHFIRE

If our school or preschool is open and a bushfire is approaching, the safety of children is our highest priority.

The South Australian Police (SAPOL) and the Country Fire Service (CFS) will take charge if a bushfire is approaching. They recommend that in such an event, everybody should remain at their school or preschool unless instructed to do otherwise.

Principals and preschool directors must comply with SAPOL or CFS instructions.

If the police have not advised an evacuation, everyone will remain inside a designated building and emergency procedures will be activated. These will include:

- Moving everybody inside, closing windows, doors, and blocking crevices, cracks and gaps.
- Plugging downpipes and filling roof gutters with water, if there is time.
- Checking that taps are working and filling available containers with water.
- Hosing down walls, garden etc. on the side facing the 'fire-front' and leaving garden sprinklers on.
- Remaining inside and putting fire drill procedures into action with the children until the main fire-front passes.
- Listening to the local ABC Radio Station for information.

We hope that we will never have to enact fire drill procedures. However we are working with our school and preschool communities to be bushfire ready in the event of a bushfire emergency and trust that parents and carers will add their support.