



## MOUNT BARKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

has a 'high risk' bushfire rating.

This means on days of a forecast catastrophic fire danger rating, our school/preschool will be **closed**.

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

### Bushfire Emergency Contact:

#### DECD Parent Bushfire Information Hotline:

**1800 000 279**

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:

DECD Emergency and Crisis Management Website

Department for Education and Child Development

[www.crisis.sa.edu.au](http://www.crisis.sa.edu.au)

SA Country Fire Service (CFS) Website

[www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

CFS Bushfire Information Hotline

**1300 362 361**

During days of forecast catastrophic fire danger ratings or an actual bushfire, the DECD Parent Bushfire Information Hotline will be activated.

#### DECD Parent Bushfire Information Hotline:

**1800 000 279**

# 2013/2014 Fire Danger Season Information for Families



The Fire Danger Season can be an anxious time for children and families.

Our schools and preschools in high risk bushfire areas have emergency plans, called Bushfire Action Plans, to keep everybody as safe as possible in the event of a bushfire.

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 Fire Danger Season:

Bushfire Action Plans set out the actions our schools and preschools will take to, prepare for the Fire Danger Season and, if necessary, protect your children in a bushfire situation. We work with emergency services authorities (Country Fire Service and SA Police) to ensure that we are well prepared and in the best possible position to protect your child's safety during a bushfire. Our schools and preschools in high risk 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 any changes.
- Practice bushfire safety drills.
- Ensure power-fail 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.

## Forecast Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating:

Catastrophic fire danger rating days are days when the weather conditions mean a fire is more likely to start and be more 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 in the declared Fire Ban District will be closed.

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

Schools and preschools will make every attempt to contact parents and carers to inform them that their school or preschool will be closed.

**Please make sure your emergency contact details are updated before the fire danger 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 and CFS instructions.

If the police have not advised the school or preschool to evacuate then everyone will remain inside a designated building (Bushfire refuge) and emergency procedures will be activated. These will include:

- Moving everybody inside, closing windows, doors, and turning off the air-conditioning.
- Filling available containers with water.
- If it is safe to do so and time permits turning on all sprinklers and irrigation systems.
- Remaining inside and activating fire drill procedures with the children until the main fire-front passes.
- Listening to local ABC Radio Station and FIVEaa radio stations for bushfire up dates and information.
- If possible, communicating to parents that students are moving into the Bushfire refuge.

We hope that we will never have to enact our 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.