

HEATHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BUSHFIRE ACTION PLAN

School website: www.hhs.sa.edu.au

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Heathfield High School has very strict policies and procedures (in line with the Government of South Australia Bushfire Guide) to manage the threat of bushfire.

We conduct evacuation drills each year to ensure appropriate procedures are in place for the safety of students, staff and others in the event of a bushfire.

Schools in South Australia have been issued with a **site fire audit rating**. Heathfield High School has been assessed as **R1- Extreme to Very High-risk**.

In addition Australian fire services have agreed to the following Fire Danger Index ratings:

CATEGORY	FIRE DANGER INDEX	ACTION FOR SCHOOLS AND PRESCHOOLS
Catastrophic (Code Red)	100+	CLOSED: In the Adelaide Hills on days of declared catastrophic Code Red bushfire weather, schools and preschools with a site fire audit rating of extreme, very high or high fire risk, will be closed. Any services operating from these sites will also be closed. CANCELLED: School bus services will be will be cancelled.
Extreme	75-99	The Department for Education will take advice of fire authorities regarding possible school closures
Severe	50-74	Open: normal bushfire plan procedures apply
Very High	25-49	Open: normal bushfire plan procedures apply
High	12-24	Open: normal bushfire plan procedures apply
Low-Moderate	0-11	Open: normal bushfire plan procedures apply

FIRE DANGER INDEX (FDI)

The Fire Danger Index (FDI) is not to be confused with the temperature of the day. The FDI is calculated on the basis of the degree to which vegetation has cured, the wind speed and the forecast temperature.

PLANNING AHEAD

It is essential that all families who live in bushfire prone areas have a bushfire action plan and that part of the plan needs to address what action will be taken when the school is closed. Possibilities may include staying with a parent at home or at work, local arrangements with neighbours or friends or taking the child to another school should this be required.

The CFS is very clear that for survival in a bushfire, leaving is the best option. The new fire danger index ratings have been introduced to make it easier for people to decide when to leave their home, particularly when there is a forecast of catastrophic fire danger. In such cases a bushfire action plan should include the need to leave the night before or the morning of such a day.



HEATHFIELD
HIGH SCHOOL



Government of South Australia
Department for Education



SCHOOL CLOSURE: CATASTROPHIC (CODE RED) FDI 100+

Confirmation of the school closure will be provided after 4:00pm on the day before the closure (following CFS advice). Notice of confirmation will be available on

- The school website www.hhs.sa.edu.au
- The school telephone answering service (phone 8139 9300)
- The school noticeboard at the front of the school on Longwood Road.
- The Emergency Information Hotline (1800 000 279) will operate during days of catastrophic fire danger ratings or during an actual bushfire.
- Media services e.g. Radio ABC AM 891, or CFS www.cfs.sa.gov.au, or CFS Bushfire Information Hotline 1300 362 361
- A SMS text message will be sent to all families on the advice of the Education Director. School staff will attempt to make telephone contact with families who do not have mobile phone numbers currently in school records.

SCHOOL OPEN

The school will be on bushfire alert on days of extreme fire danger. The school monitors for updates on Radio ABC AM 891, and the CFS website. Staff are notified and teachers will discuss the situation with students. The Principal may decide to call a whole school assembly.

The Principal will assess the risk for all excursions and it is highly likely they will be cancelled.

If the Police and Emergency Services issue a Bushfire Information and Warning Message advising of a potential threat to safety for students, the Principal will enact an Emergency Evacuation to the Bushfire Refuge (Mt Lofty Community Sports Centre). There are processes in place to ensure that all students can be accounted for.

Parents may elect to collect their child(ren) from school if safe to do so. Formal authorisation must be provided to the school by parents who make arrangements for other people to collect their child(ren). It may be necessary to delay school bus departures at the end of the day if the potential threat continues. The School will seek advice from the Police and Emergency Services.

The Principal will endeavour to keep parents informed of school procedures via the official fire information radio station ABC AM 891, the Emergency Information Hotline (1800 000 279), school website: www.hhs.sa.edu.au and SMS text messages.

The Principal is responsible for decision-making regarding the safety and movement of students, staff and all persons on the school site, unless Police and Emergency Services intervene directly, or through an authorised officer whose authority to act has been established beyond reasonable doubt.

EXPECT TO BE **CHALLENGED**
EXPECT TO BE **ENCOURAGED**
EXPECT TO BE **THE BEST YOU CAN BE**