



BUSHFIRE PLAN

Asset Protection

POLICY

Rationale:

- Many schools in Victoria are located in areas that may be impacted by bushfire. The level of risk to which schools in these areas are exposed can vary considerably and is dependent on the bushfire hazard surrounding a school, and also how well a school is prepared and able to act in a bushfire emergency.
- Our school is currently identified as being in a low bushfire hazard area. This indicates we are in a flat urban area with maintained gardens and street verges devoid of native vegetation. It is noted that severe bushfires may still impact on the school.

Aims:

- This document is designed to assist the school planning and preparing for the bushfire season.
- The safety, survival and wellbeing of students, staff and visitors is always the Department's main priority. Staff are not expected to fight bushfires.
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Implementation:

- Do not pile wood against or near school buildings.
- If possible, place metal flywire mesh on all windows or vents to keep sparks and embers out.
- If possible, block any gaps under floor spaces, in the roof space, under eaves, external vents, skylights, evaporative air conditioners, chimneys and wall cladding.
- Create and maintain a minimum two metre gap between school buildings and tree branches. Shrubs should be a minimum of three times the height (at maturity) of the shrub away from the building.
- Rake up leaf litter and twigs under trees.
- Remove shrubs and small trees under and between larger trees.
- Keep garden mulch away from buildings and grass in kept short.
- If possible ensure all gaps in external wall claddings are sealed.
- Keep roof gutters and valleys clear of leaves and bark.
- Keep LPG gas cylinders secured and on the side of the school furthest away from the likely direction of bushfires and placed so the vent away from the building.
- Remove flammable materials and store them away from school buildings.
- Where possible, maintain an asset protection zone (20 metre radius) around each building. This area needs to be cleared of all rubbish, long dry grass, bark and material that may catch fire.
- Clear obstacles and trees from driveways and access points.

- The Schools Emergency Management Plan includes a plan for dealing with bushfires. The Principal is familiar with the current plan.
- Check the schools status on the Bushfire Zone Register; ensure that the schools current plans reflect any change in status.
- Ensure communication plans are in place for directed evacuation or planned closure.
- Evacuation drills are practiced as per the OH&S schedule.
- The school has a correctly functioning emergency warning system.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed annually during term 3 in preparedness for the bushfire season.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

15.08.2016

Signed	
School Council President	Date
Bob Bextream	
Principal	Date
Leah Willis	