

St Joseph's School 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.

Parent and 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 school 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. This includes our school.

It is possible that a Catastrophic rating maybe declared during the day when staff and students are on the way to, or already present at school. Our school will remain open, until such time as all students can be safely taken off site. Parents will be notified via SMS or email that a Catastrophic rating has been "called". An authority for an alternative adult to collect a child must be obtained in writing (eg via email or text message). Phone lines need to be kept open, so please refrain from calling the landline, unless it is an emergency.

Find out about site closures

Because St Joseph's School, Clare, has a 'High Risk' bushfire rating, our site **will be closed** on a forecast Catastrophic fire danger day.

The school will endeavour, where possible, to alert parents 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 school

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 (Multi-Purpose Hall adjacent to Middle School) which is the safest place for staff and students to be in this situation.

Shelter in Place is notified by CFS, which means you are in immediate risk, therefore people should not be on the road.

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

When we move to our *Shelter in Place* refuge, we:

- Move everybody inside, close windows and doors
- Fill all available containers with water
- Turn on the school 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
- Once we have moved to *Shelter in Place*, children are NOT to be collected until parents are notified it is safe to do so.
- As mentioned, the roads are deemed unsafe and are to be kept clear for the emergency response teams.



Collection of children

For the safety of everyone, and on the advice of the Emergency Services, parents 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.

Category	General Advice	Action for schools
	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.
	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.
	Be ready to act Fires can be dangerous	SCHOOL OPEN: normal bushfire plan procedures apply
	Plan and prepare Most fires can be controlled	SCHOOL OPEN: normal bushfire plan procedures apply

St Joseph's School has a 'High Risk' bushfire rating

This means, that on a 'Catastrophic' rated day:

- Our site will be CLOSED
- NO persons (staff, students, contractors 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
- The school will make contact with parents via SMS messages as we are informed

On days rated Extreme: All excursions considered a risk, will be cancelled.

Our school contact numbers:

8842 4400

0418 824 204

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:

www.education.sa.gov.au/sites-and-facilities/bushfires-and-emergency-closures/bushfire-information

NB. A copy of this brochure is also available on our school website:

www.stjoclar.catholic.edu.au

Country Fire Service (CFS)

CFS Bushfire Hotline Ph: 1300 362 361

website: www.cfs.sa.gov.au

SA Emergencies Services Information Line

Ph: [1800 362 361](tel:1800362361)

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)

website: <http://www.bom.gov.au/sa/>

ABC Radio

ABC Adelaide 891

ABC North & West SA 639

FIRE DANGER SEASON

2024 - 2025

Information for families at St Joseph's School, Clare

