

MCAS Bushfire Plan 2023/2024: ALL FAMILIES PLEASE READ & KEEP HANDY

This article provides important information about the updated Bushfire Action Plan that will be followed at Mount Compass Area School.

Department for Education schools in declared bushfire prone areas have been allocated a bushfire risk rating from R1 through to R4. **Our risk rating is R2.**

Our R2 rating means Mount Compass Area School closes when the forecast is for CATASTROPHIC conditions in the MOUNT LOFTY region.

No services will be offered to students and their families on these fire closure days.

School bus services will also be cancelled on days where the forecast is for catastrophic bushfire weather conditions in the MOUNT LOFTY fire ban region.

Department for Education sites will receive advice from the Bureau of Meteorology, after 4 pm, about the following day's forecast. Our school website, Facebook and School Stream will alert families of any such closure. Information will also be provided on the DECD Emergency Information Hotline (1800 000 279), ABC Radio 891 and local regional stations, ABC TV and the Department for Education website <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/>.

If a fire threatens the school during school hours then JUNIOR SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL and STEM buildings have been designated as our Bushfire Shelter areas.

All students and staff from the school will assemble and stay there until the fire danger has passed.

- R-5 students stay in Junior Primary building.
- Year 6-9 will go to the Middle School building.
- Year 10-12 will go to the STEM building.
- It is important that parents understand that no one leaves the Bushfire Shelter areas until the situation outside has been assessed as safe by the school's Incident Response Group in consultation with the Emergency Services. Students retained at the school will be supervised in JS/STEM/MS. Students and parents are requested not to personally negotiate pick-ups. Students can then be collected by their parents, who will be able to park on Arthur Road or at the front of the school. Student names, along with the names of the people collecting them, will be recorded as they leave the Bushfire Shelter building.

Nominated staff will remain on duty to care for students until parents collect them.

If there is a fire in the Mount Lofty region that could impact on regular bus routes then buses will not be permitted to leave the site until SAPOL or the CFS indicate that it is safe to do so.

If a bushfire prevents the school buses leaving the site or students from boarding public buses then students will be supervised at school until they are collected by parents. Students will not be released into the care of 'family friends/relatives' unless a direct contact to the main school Reception desk is made by the parents concerned.

Students who travel on buses will be taken through the procedures to be followed if the bus is caught in a fire path during a trip to or from school.

On days when there is a SEVERE or EXTREME fire danger rating SCHOOL WILL RUN AS NORMAL.

Student excursions away from site may be cancelled for the day and rescheduled by the teacher.

Off-site meetings for staff may also be cancelled. These decisions will be made by the school's Emergency Response Team

It is critical that the school has up to date information about contact details for all families, including parents' work numbers, mobile numbers, emergency contact names and phone/mobile numbers.

Parents may find it helpful to build a network of communication and a student collection plan with a group of people who live nearby.

Up to date contact details for all school staff, including OSHC and cleaning staff is equally as important to ensure that families are contactable in an emergency situation.