

BUSHFIRE POLICY

St. Michael's school has been classified as being in the 'High' risk category for bushfires. An independent audit of the school was conducted in June 2010 ('School site bushfire risk assessment report') which provides information for the school's risk and the school's preparedness and response to bushfires.

The likelihood of a fire occurring infrequently is rated as 'likely' with the overall threat assessment being rated as 'low' and the vulnerability as 'moderate'.

Site :

On an biennial basis (October and January) the Principal, Business Manager and Groundsman will inspect the grounds ensuring that any issues with tall grass, leaf / bark litter on the school grounds has been controlled.

To improve ember and spark proofing all gutters on the buildings have been treated with industry compliant wire mesh. The groundsman is to check this as part of the annual site inspection.

Procedure:

Extreme fire days:

The school will remain open on days of extreme fire days. All excursions and offsite activities for staff and students will be cancelled. Parents may wish for their children to remain at home. Such a decision will be considered in the context of location, method of transport, place of occupation etc.

Catastrophic fire days:

On the days rated as catastrophic the school will be closed for all students and staff. Parents are expected to arrange supervision for their children.

- Parents will be advised by note, 48 hours prior to an expected rating of catastrophic fire day.
- Catastrophic fire days are confirmed after 4:00pm on the day prior. Therefore the school will inform parents about the closure by:
 - SMS
 - Message on the school sign board
 - Message on the school answering machine

Supervision of students:

On days of extreme bushfire danger the school secretary will listen to ABC radio for updates for the Mt. Lofty Ranges. In the event that of a serious bushfire threatening the school, all students will be kept at school in the care of their teachers until collected by parents or their authorised substitute.

- Teachers are to record those students collected by their parents.

Under most circumstances the students will remain in their classrooms. In the event that there was a risk to the immediate area all students and staff will be moved to the school library, adjoining rooms of the old stone building (classrooms and workroom). The evacuation of rooms to this area will be indicated by whole school intercom announcement or siren from the portable device.

Movement to this area of the school will occur:

- On advice from the CFS
- On radio reports of a fire in the near vicinity
- There is confirmed sighting of nearby smoke or flame

Students will be encouraged to fill water bottles regularly during the day.

On evacuation to this area:

- Class teachers are to lock rooms, turn off air conditioners and bring rolls.
- Teachers will also bring fire extinguishers from their rooms.
- Rolls will be called by teachers.
- Signs will be placed on the front door of the school indicating location of the students.
- As the school administration is located in the stone building adjacent to the refuge area it will be staffed for as long as possible thus providing access to medications, communication etc.

After the threat of fire:

- The Principal will liaise with the appropriate authorities to determine the next course of action.
- Staff will remain on duty until all children are collected by parents or authorised substitute.
- Staff will extinguish any small / spot fires around the building.