



BUSHFIRE AT-RISK REGISTER – MCKENZIE CREEK CAMPUS

PROCEDURES FOR THE BUSHFIRE SEASON

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. Schools and children’s services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. Horsham College’s McKenzie Creek Campus has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with advance notice of a potential Code Red day closure. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with information.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. McKenzie Creek students will follow an alternative program at the Alternate Programs setting at 59 Dimboola Road.

It is important to note that:

- No staff or students will be on site at McKenzie Creek on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located
- No buses will run to McKenzie Creek

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility’s grounds and gutters.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our Newsletter and by checking our Facebook page.

If you have any further concerns, please contact the Principal at Horsham College by phoning 5381 7100

- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.
- You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season see:

- <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook - [facebook.com/cfavic](https://www.facebook.com/cfavic)
- Twitter - twitter.com/CFA_Updates
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)