

Penola Primary School Bushfire Policy



Penola Primary School is the LOWER SOUTH EAST FIRE BAN DISTRICT and is NOT a high bushfire risk school and will remain open on all fire ban days.

When Total Fire Bans have been declared, very hazardous fire weather conditions are predicted. The CFS has 3 ratings categories for fire danger: Severe, Extreme and Catastrophic.

Our school will follow the following process when any Fire ban is in place:

Declaration of Fire Ban

- Attendance list is kept on Central Register Sheet in Front Office
- Sprinklers are checked and started (by principal or grounds person), radio is on and tuned to ABC.
- If a school excursion or another off site activity involving the school (eg swimming lessons) is to occur a risk assessment will be carried out to determine if it proceeds or not (refer to Risk Management checklist).
- If a bushfire is burning prior to departure and is likely to threaten the intended campsite or excursion site, then the excursion/camp must be cancelled.

Fire in our area of concern as notified by the CFS/The Department for Education Mount Gambier Office

- Children to remain at school.
- School keeps in contact with The Department Security and Emergency Management.
- School advises The Department for Education Mount Gambier Office.
- Children are ONLY released to parents/caregiver with signature and current date in the Departure/Return Register located in the front office, as children are collected.
- Staff will remain with students until all danger has passed. Students not collected are catered for after hours at school.

Fire threatens school as notified by the CFS/The Department for Education Mount Gambier Office.

- Steps above apply.
- Children to remain at school.
- In-vacuation siren is sounded if required.
- All people to move to the gym.
- Staff to complete roll check of students.
- All windows and doors are closed, draughts blocked and air conditioning turned off.
- Combustible material is removed eg artwork.
- Extinguishers to gym and containers filled with water.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- The gym is the refuge area
- The ABC will broadcast any relevant information (ABC 1476AM or 1161 AM)

CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER AND BUS INFORMATION

Declaration of CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER RATING the day before:

- Our school will remain open.
- However, school bus services within the local area will not run.
- Families that access the bus will be contacted.

Declaration of CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER RATING during the day:

- Buses operate as per normal unless otherwise instructed by emergency services.

In the event of school buses and/or bus routes being affected by a fire, buses WILL NOT be permitted to leave the school without consultation between The Department for Education Mount Gambier Office, CFS, Penola High School and our school. Children will be kept at school and cared for by staff, volunteers and welfare services for as long as necessary. Parents will be contacted as soon as practically possible. Children will be released to their parents/caregivers or to other persons authorized by their parents, either in writing or a documented phone call.

Parents/caregivers are encouraged to read: **Bushfires and Your Child's School or Preschool**

https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/bushfire-and-your-childs-school-or-preschool-brochure.pdf?acsf_files_redirect

Further information:

Information about fire bans: www.cfs.sa.gov.au

CFS Bushfire Information hotline: 1300 363 361

Further information from The Department:

www.education.sa.gov.au

Policy review date: 2022



Government of South Australia

Department for Education