

Bushfire Safety Procedures

Information for Parents and Guardians



There is the potential for a bushfire to threaten our school, so it is vitally important that all staff, students and parents know what to do in this situation.

Preparing for Bushfire Season

The following have been implemented to minimize risk and prepare for the bushfire season:

- A *Bushfire Response Plan* has been developed and implemented.
- A *Building Protection Zone* has been developed by minimizing fuel load on the school site.
- *Evacuation drills* are regularly conducted with staff and students
- The School Library has been refurbished to Australian Building Standards as much as possible and has been identified as the on-site 'Safer Location'.
- Parents are advised of bushfire procedures.
- Parents are requested to keep contact details up to date.

Our Safer Location



The library is the school's "Safer Location". It is located away from bush and tall trees and surrounded by lawn. It is located near a fire-fighting water source and is big enough to house all students and staff.

The library has the following:

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| A fridge for water, ice, ice blocks etc. | Transistor radio |
| Water facilities | Student learning materials. |
| Toilet facilities | Food |
| Towels/sheets/blankets | Torches |
| Medication—basic first aid, asthma puffers and epipens. | |
| Buckets | |
| Many types of communication systems—telephone, computers, television, radio. | |



Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating

The rating decisions rest with DFES, but, once a CFD rating has been declared, the school will definitely be **closed** the following day.

Every effort will be made to inform parents via all of our communication channels – website, SMS, Schoolzine. It is essential that your contact details are up to date at the front office.

No staff will be onsite during the CFDR.

During Bushfire Season

If a bushfire is judged to be a threat to the school during a school day: The Principal will make contact with emergency services and North Metro Education Regional Office.

- One of the following strategies may be implemented:
 1. normal school program continues if no immediate danger
 2. students relocated to the designated 'Safer Location' (library).
 3. students evacuated by bus, if available, to an alternate site designated by the Incident Controller (DFES). This will only occur if buses are available and there is a considerable amount of time

The school will endeavour to contact all parents if a relocation or evacuation is implemented (SMS messaging, Schoolzine app and Parkerville Primary Facebook page).

Parents should tune into ABC 720 local radio for regular updates or go to www.dfes.gov.au.

- Parents are requested not to call the school: North Metro regional Office can be contacted on 92863600.

Should I collect my child from school?

Please DON'T—it is a dangerous situation and your child may be at risk. Our Library is the SAFEST PLACE TO BE in the event of a bushfire threatening our school.

The local fire brigade understand this is our safer location and have practiced protecting it.

They have Fire Plans drawn up in specific relation to OUR school and its protection.

Roads around the school may be closed.

Roads may be compromised by smoke and flames.

Many cars on our roads around the school may impede emergency vehicles trying to fight the fire.

Fire fighters and their equipment will be in close proximity to the school therefore you will be unable to park close enough to quickly and easily collect your child.

Being unprotected in an area threatened by fire will endanger both you

Parkerville Primary School
Independent Public School

16 Parker Road
Parkerville
WA 6081

T 08 9295 4268 • F 08 9295 4062

E parkerville.ps@education.wa.edu.au

www.parkervilleps.det.wa.edu.au

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