

Established 1855



McLaren Flat Primary School

Bushfire Preparedness Policy and Procedures

External Fire Action - Bushfires

The CFS cannot guarantee the presence of a fire fighting vehicle and crew to protect every school or home in a major wildfire. It is therefore extremely important to plan for our own safety and be self-reliant. Because McLaren Flat Primary School is located on the main road, there is a likelihood that in a bushfire the road may be obstructed by vehicles. In the event of a wildfire whilst the children are already at school, we have been advised by the CFS to keep the students in our classrooms. 'The experience of the Australian fire services over many years has shown that lives are most often lost in last minute, panic-stricken attempts to flee from wildfire'. (*from a CFS position paper on evacuation during wildfires*). For this reason, we have prepared the school to cope in the event of a wildfire.

This preparation includes:

- having a Bushfire Preparedness Policy
- rehearsed procedures for all staff
- practices for the children to know and understand what to do.

(Please also read this school information letter in conjunction with the letter from the DECD Chief Executive entitled "SA School and preschool communities prepare for bushfires" dated 6/11/09.)

Bushfires - Levels of Alert

Low - Moderate

Action: Know where to get more information and monitor the situation for any changes

High: -

Action - Know where to get more information and monitor the situation for any changes

Very High

Action - Only stay if you and your home are well prepared and you can actively defend it

Severe

Action - Leaving is the safest option for your survival. Only stay if you and your home are well prepared and you can actively defend it during a fire.

Extreme

Action Leaving is the safest option for your survival

Catastrophic

Action - For your survival leaving is the best option

for more information:- www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Procedures

Parents

A Declared Fire Ban in the Mt Lofty ranges

Parents and caregivers are asked to monitor these days and be prepared to enact the Family Bushfire Survival Plan (for more information about Family Plans please contact CFS Community Fire Safe Phone...84634127). Information also available on the CFS website.

Bushfire Information messages

If a Bushfire Message is known before school, parents and caregivers are advised to enact their **Family Bushfire Survival Plan (particularly planning what and when to tell the school of decisions)**

If the fire occurs during school time the school will enact its **Bushfire Preparedness Plan**.

Bushfire Warning Message (School Bushfire-ready building a refuge of last resort – Rooms12G/window room and 13P))

It is anticipated, at this stage of alert, that parents and caregivers have enacted their own Bushfire Survival Plan.

All students at school will be kept in the refuge of the school/community –Rooms12G/13P and the window room.

Families need to inform the school before the Bushfire Season if their Family Plan includes picking children up from school during the school day and who will be picking up the children.

Students are to be picked up via the Office as per normal school practice when a student leaves the school in school time.

In the event of an extreme fire danger day, parents and caregivers may chose to keep children at home as part of the Family Survival Plan. The school needs to be notified of this decision before 8.50am if students are not attending school. This process complies within the non-attendance procedure already in place.

Parents and Caregivers are welcome to view the School's Bushfire Preparedness Plan. Please ask the Office staff to show you.

Stuart Hage
Principal