

2021 - 2022 GLEN FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL BUSHFIRE POLICY

Purpose

This policy describes the decisions and arrangements made by the school to eliminate or reduce as far as reasonably practical the risk to staff, students and others

The school has applied advice from FESA and independent bushfire safety consultants to assist in the bushfire management strategy.

Responsibilities

Of the Incident Management Team

- To ensure that staff have received adequate training in all aspects of bushfire alert and evacuation protocols by communicating the policy to staff and by engaging the staff in executing the bushfire management process.
- To coordinate pre-emptive closure of the school on forthcoming declared Catastrophic Fire Alert days.
- To evaluate and report the most significant Bushfire risk areas on and around the school grounds; the effectiveness of current controls and the key actions that will be used if there is a bushfire threat to the school.

Of staff

- To be aware of and understand the most current policy and by engaging in required training.
- To assist where needed to carry out the bushfire management process.

Implementation

The school has, and will continue to develop and implement, annual schedules for bushfire prevention works on the school grounds.

Preparation

The school will be prepared for a bushfire by undertaking the following tasks:

- Conduct fire and emergency drills several times per year including the testing of warning systems and other communication devices.
- Ensure that bushfire training for staff is provided
- Regularly update contact lists for students and staff.
- Will close the school on Catastrophic Fire Rating days (as directed by Regional Office) and alert parents as per the notification procedures.
- The Incident Management Team/s will monitor the threat and liaise with emergency services.
- After the threat of a bushfire has passed, an assessment will be made by the Principal from the advice received from the Regional Executive Director and DFES.

BUSHFIRE WARNING STAGES

1	 ADVICE	<p>A fire has started but there is no known danger.</p> <p>This is general information to keep Principals informed and up to date with developments.</p> <p><i>Teachers will:</i> turn off evaporative air conditioners and ensure roof vents are closed to their classrooms.</p> <p><i>Principal will:</i> check and patrol school regularly for bushfire activity, paying special attention to the evaporative air conditioners throughout all areas of the school.</p>
2	 WATCH AND ACT	<p>There is a possible threat to lives and property. Conditions are changing.</p> <p><i>Principals will prepare to:</i> Evacuate; or Move students, staff and visitors to their pre-determined onsite 'safer building location'. <i>They will not be moved to an open area.</i></p> <p>Evacuation orders are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - issued by emergency services if required. - relayed via a variety of official sources such as the DFES website and Emergency WA website. <p>It is vital that the Principal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accesses bushfire information from official sources. - makes an informed decision to stay on-site or evacuate offsite based on advice from emergency services.
3	 EMERGENCY WARNING	<p>A school is in danger as its area will be impacted by fire. Take immediate action to survive.</p> <p>Principal will be advised whether staff, students and visitors can leave the area or if they must shelter where they are as the fire burns through the area.</p> <p>An emergency warning may be accompanied by a siren sound called the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS).</p> <p>Evacuation orders are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - directed by the emergency services - relayed via a variety of official sources, such as the Bushfire warning system, DFES website and Emergency WA website. <p>It is vital that the Principal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accesses bushfire information from official sources - makes an informed decision to stay onsite or evacuate offsite based on the advice.
4	 ALL CLEAR	<p>The danger has passed and the fire is under control, but stay alert in case the situation changes.</p> <p>It may not be safe to return to school yet.</p>

