

MELBOURNE RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL

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Bushfire Emergency Information Guidelines

****Please Read Carefully****

24th January 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

School Closure

The Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School will close on **Code Red** and **Extreme** fire danger days.

Many families live in and commute through the **Central** fire danger rating district and will be treating an Extreme fire danger day with the same level of seriousness as a Code Red fire danger day. Taking this into consideration, the College of Teachers believes it is in the best interests of the Community for the school to close not only on a Code Red day but also on an Extreme fire danger day.

In the event of a Code Red or an Extreme fire danger day, any school activities or functions that had been scheduled for that day will be cancelled or re-scheduled for a later date. If a camp is scheduled to return to school on these days, parents will be notified regarding an alternate pick-up location.

In the event of a Code Red or Extreme day being forecast, MRSS will endeavor to have information about school closures on the school website of www.mrss.com.au. However, fire danger rating updates can occur at times when it is not always possible to post this information on the website immediately. For this reason we would encourage families to regularly check fire danger ratings and weather forecasts via the CFA and Bureau of Meteorology. Their respective websites are listed below:

CFA: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology: www.bom.gov.au

Family Bushfire Plans

Families and community members are encouraged to have a bushfire plan. This plan not only needs to address what action you will take in the event of a bushfire emergency, but also what action you will take on high risk fire days such as a **"Total Fire Ban"** day.

Both the CFA and Bureau of Meteorology will be able to provide the most up to date information in relation to weather forecasts and both are valuable and necessary resources which will assist the school and community members in carrying out their own fire plans.

For more information about preparing a bushfire plan, please visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fire-ready-kit/.

Notifying the School of your intention

If your plan involves keeping your child/children at home on a high risk fire day, **you need to contact the school to alert staff of this.**

The contact phone number to call is 03 9876 2633. **Please call before 8.30am on the day** and leave a clear message on our message bank detailing the child's full name and class level.

If your plan involves sending your child/children to school on a high risk fire day (**not including a Code Red or Extreme day, as the school will be closed on these days**) please ensure that before leaving home they have clear instructions outlining where they are to go once school finishes at the end of the day.

For example:

"I am picking you up at the end of the school day"

"Grandma/Aunt/Friend will be picking you up today"

"You will need to catch public transport after school today"

Or

"You will not be going home after school today and you will instead go to..." (**Please refer to your own family bushfire plan and ensure that the directions your child/children have are those which have been previously discussed and included on your plan**).

Please be aware that if your child/children are catching public transport to and from school on a high risk fire day, you need to consider that there may be delays or cancellations with public transport systems such as buses and trains. It is imperative that you factor this into your plan and have a backup plan should such an event occur.

If circumstances dictate a change to the end of day instructions, please phone the school on 03 9876 2633 so these new instructions can be relayed to the child/children. Alternatively, if your child carries a mobile phone they can check their phone after 3.30pm, before leaving school for the updated instructions.

Further Information

For access to critical information, such as warnings for all types of emergencies in Victoria, the Victorian Government has developed the **VicEmergency** app. This app replaces the **FireReady** app and brings together emergency information and warnings from a host of agencies including the CFA, MFB, Victoria State Emergency Service and others.

Previous **FireReady** app users should update their app to get the new VicEmergency app. Please visit www.emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare/#being-prepared/who-can-help-me for more information and to download the VicEmergency app. You may also wish to visit the Vic Emergency website at www.emergency.vic.gov.au for other relevant emergency information.

In the case where you do not have access to the internet, updated bushfire emergency information can be found in newspapers, on the TV and on radio stations. In addition to this, ABC local radio, commercial radio stations and Sky News are emergency services broadcasters.

You can also call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226, for up to date information regarding bushfires and other significant incidents.

Yours sincerely,



Narelle Bright
OHS & Administration Officer