



# **Bushfire Advice for Parents**



#### **OVERVIEW FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Bushfires are a continual threat to all households and businesses in the Hills of Perth. Roleystone Community College is no exception. In response, we provide you with the information required for parents to understand the school's approach to bushfire management and our emergency procedures.

Our philosophy with relation to bushfires is to protect all children in our care first. This may mean that during an emergency, we do not answer phones or the administration building may be locked. We request that you work with us during these times and only come to the school or contact the school when requested via our communication channels.

#### PHILOSOPHY RELATED TO PREPARING FOR BUSHFIRES

Our school is consciously aware of its local community and the wish to maintain natural bushland and trees. Our philosophy is that no tree will be felled unless absolutely necessary, and should this occur, others would be replanted to offset the loss of the tree. Safety of your children however, is the major concern.

#### PREPARATION

Throughout the year and in preparation for the bushfire season, the school maintains an Asset Protection Zone which is an area surrounding all buildings that is managed to reduce bushfire hazard to an acceptable level. The normal Asset Protection Zone is 20m, however due to the gradient of the land surrounding the school, this increased on advice from DFES to be 31m. As such, undergrowth, overhanging branches and mid-level growth are removed on a regular basis.

Advice is sought from DFES and the City of Armadale on a regular basis to ensure compliance with all bushfire management policies.

#### SMS

Parents should ensure their contact details are correct at the front office. In the case of an emergency, parents will be advised via SMS of the situation and kept up to date via this method. Please do not reply to these messages as they come from an automated system that does not receive the replies.

#### **PRE-EMPTIVE CLOSURE**

The Department of Education will make the decision to close a school based on the advice from Emergency Services. If this is prior to a school day beginning, the information will be communicated to parents via SMS. In such situations, students should not be sent to school until the "All Clear" is notified.

If a closure occurs during the school day, parents will receive an SMS notification asking them to collect students from school.

#### LOCKDOWN IN CLASSROOMS

Our first action when there is possible danger due to bushfire is to lockdown in classrooms. This process is to ensure that all children are accounted for and that movement around the school is minimised so that further action can be taken quickly if required.

This action will correspond to warnings from DFES of "Watch and Act". In such circumstances, an SMS notification will be sent stating:

"Our school is currently in lockdown in response to the Watch and Act advice from DFES. All children are safe and further information will follow. There is no need to collect your child from school."

#### LOCKDOWN IN SAFER BUILDINGS

This action will be taken if the danger to the school is more considerable. In such a situation, children will be moved to our safer locations within the school. There is a detailed plan with DFES around these buildings and with such a number of students in the school, an appropriate number of appliances will be sent to school as needed to protect children in place.

We ask that parents do not come to the school immediately in such a situation to collect students. As you can imagine, moving a large number of children in an emergency situation is a logistically difficult thing to do. In such circumstances, an SMS notification will be sent stating:

"Our school is locking down in safer buildings in response to advice from DFES. All children are safe and further information will follow. There is no need to collect your child from school."

Following this scenario, once all children have been moved and are safe in our safer locations, a further SMS notification will be sent stating:

"Our school has locked down in safer buildings in response to advice from DFES. All children are safe and if required, you are now able to collect your child from school via administration. Please do not go straight to classrooms."

During this time there is no requirement to collect your children from school. The school is possibly the safest place for them based on advice from DFES. We do however understand that some parents will want to collect their children and leave the area completely.

#### **EVACUATION**

Evacuation is not a normal part of our bushfire procedures. Should there be a situation however where there is sufficient warning and there is a recommendation to leave the area, students will be bussed to a safer location out of the area. We have arrangements with other local schools that would provide a safe space for us to look after children until they can be collected by you. In such circumstances, an SMS notification will be sent stating:

"Our school is currently evacuating in response to the advice from DFES. All children are safe and children can be collected from SCHOOL NAME. Children cannot be collected directly from school."

As you can understand, it is impossible to ensure the safety of all children and evacuate them if parents are requesting their child at the same time. Please follow directions and collect your child from the location stated in the SMS notification.

#### **ALL CLEAR**

Once an all clear has been given by DFES, a siren will sound for 30 seconds and we will return to normal operations as quickly as possible. An SMS notification to this effect will be sent at this time.

#### **OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

### Lockdown in place

Signal: Blast of the school siren for 30 seconds

## Lockdown in safe buildings

#### Signal: Short blasts of the siren for 30 seconds or direction from the Principal or delegate

Safe Building	Student Movement
Block 2	All students in Block 2 remain in their classrooms All students from Block 1 move to the wet area in the middle of Block 2 and then are distributed into classrooms
Block 4	All students in Block 4 remain in their classrooms All students from Block 3 move to the central area of Block 4 and then are managed in this area.
Block 5	All students in Block 5 remain in their classrooms All secondary students move to the centre of Block 5 and are managed from this area.

#### **ARE YOU PREPARED FOR BUSHFIRE?**

Often, children either walk home from school to an empty house or are left at home alone whilst parents run errands. Should a bushfire occur during this time, does your child know what to do and who to contact?

We encourage parents to make a written bushfire plan and have a plan in place in case a fire starts when a child is home alone. Discuss it with your children so they know what to do, who they can contact and where they can go if you are cut off from the area in the event of an emergency or fire!

If your child is in danger and unsure, they should call 000!



90 Raeburn Road, Roleystone WA 6111 For information, please call the College on **9391 6222** or visit <u>www.roleystonecc.wa.edu.au</u>.