



BUSHFIRE POLICY

Purpose and Scope

The safety of students, staff, and visitors is of paramount importance to Good Shepherd Lutheran School. The School does not want any student or member of the community to be placed at risk from a bushfire. The 'Good Shepherd Lutheran School Bushfire Policy' details a planned management strategy in the case of fire threatening the school, local communities or areas where staff and students travel to and from. In particular, the Bushfire Policy details the planned management strategy concerning:

- bus travel to and from Good Shepherd
- private travel to and from the Good Shepherd
- excursions and camps
- bushfire safety on the Good Shepherd campus

Definitions

Bushfire Safer Settlement Zone is a place of relative safety from bushfire and may be used as a place for people to stay in, or as a place of first resort for those people who have decided that they will leave high risk locations early on a bad fire weather day. Bushfire Safer Settlements are located in the inner suburbs of the Adelaide metropolitan area and provide the highest level of bushfire safety.

Fire Danger Rating is an indicator of potential danger, should a bushfire start. The rating is forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology each day. The highest category of Fire Danger Rating is **Catastrophic** which are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire.

CFS stands for the South Australian Country Fire Service

Policy Statement

As detailed in this policy, the School reserves the right to:

- cancel bus travel on catastrophic days or on non-catastrophic days where there is deemed to be a risk to safety
- cancel bus travel to areas with no fire activity, but where the bus travels through an area declared catastrophic or presents risk
- retain students at Good Shepherd Lutheran School for parent/caregiver collection until a perceived threat has passed
- release students to nominated alternate care
- cancel or modify excursions or camps affected by a catastrophic fire danger rating

As Good Shepherd is in a Bushfire Safer Settlement Zone the school will not close on days declared catastrophic.

Procedures

Emergency Services Contacts:

- CFS Emergency 000
- CFS Hotline [Fire Information] 1300 362 361

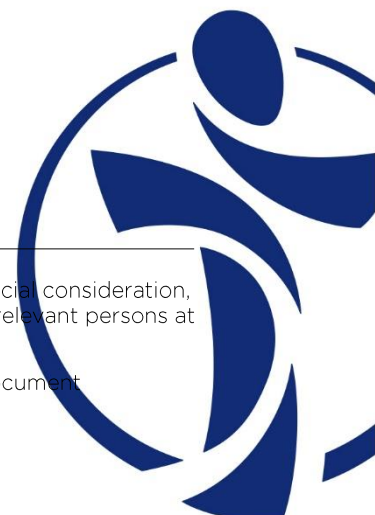
Good Shepherd Emergency Phone Contacts

- School 82647966
- Principal David Wilksch Mobile 0419 805 212

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL PARA VISTA

Any person charged with implementation of this policy may, in circumstances which require special consideration, waiver from the procedures set out in this policy so as to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all relevant persons at the time of implementation, whilst ensuring the spirit of this Policy is not compromised.

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Communication

- The School obtains information on bushfires through the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts, the media and the Association of Independent Schools of SA (AISSA). The AISSA is normally notified of significant bushfires.
- As part of the planned bushfire management strategy, the predominant communication with school families will occur through SMS, email, facebook, the school website and by phone.
- In the event that communication with families is not possible (power outage, no phone services etc), the school will enact this policy and contact parents/caregivers as soon as is practicable.
- it is the responsibility of each family to ascertain if the 'next day' has been determined as catastrophic. If this is the case, then each family should enact their bushfire survival plan which includes deciding if their child/children will be permitted to travel to school by bus.

Bus Travel

Where it is known that a bushfire is likely to threaten part of a route, bus drivers should not depart from the school unless clearance has been obtained from the Principal.

Where unexpected bushfire threatens a bus in transit, no attempt should be made to drive along roadways obscured by smoke or flame, unless a clear direction to do so is given by a Fire Control Officer. In the event that no direction is received the driver should reverse the route, return to a safe refuge and notify, as soon as possible, the principal and local emergency service

Alternate Student Collection (for bus travelling students)

In the event that bus travel is cancelled and students remain at the school, the school will:

- require students to be picked up and signed out by parents/caregivers;
- only release students to an alternate carer if express permission has been given by parents (written note, phone call);

Bushfire Safety at the School

The School is located within the Adelaide Metropolitan fire ban district and the official fire danger season usually runs from 1 December to 30th April. The area around the School is suburban and the fire history in the area is limited.

The designated fire refuge building is Mengkiwodli

All grass and nearby environment will be maintained to minimise fire risk and danger.

Implementation Responsibilities

Parent/Caregiver

- ensure Good Shepherd Lutheran School has up to date parent/caregiver contact information (mobile, email etc.);
- have a bush fire plan that includes knowing in advance what you will do on a catastrophic day in relation to school attendance. Inform the school of your decision;
- talk to your children about your bushfire plan; and
- respond to a decision made by Good Shepherd to cancel bus services and therefore arrange collection of children from Good Shepherd.

Staff

The South Australian Government recommends that residents leave a catastrophic fire risk area the day before the risk day and not return until after the risk has passed. The government also recommends that residents do not travel on a catastrophic day.

On catastrophic days, staff in affected areas may elect not to attend Good Shepherd Lutheran School (leave without pay).

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References/Related Policies

Staff A-Z

South Australian Country Fire Service [Accessed on line July 2016] <http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/home.jsp>

Faith Lutheran College Bushfire Policy

Redeemer Lutheran School Bushfire Policy

Evacuation Procedures

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