

GULFVIEW HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

has a 'high risk' bushfire rating.

This means on days of catastrophic bushfire weather warnings, our school will be closed.

School buses and taxis will not operate.

BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY CONTACTS

School number: 8258 9959

(ensure this will be contactable in the event of a fire)

Please note that this number may be engaged during an emergency situation and you may not be able to get through immediately.

Regional Office, Bushfire Coordinator:
David O'Brien Ph: 8256 8240

FOR MORE INFORMATION

DECS Emergency and Crisis Management Website
Department of Education and Children's Services
www.crisis.sa.edu.au

SA Country Fire Service (CFS) Website
www.cfs.org.au
CFS Bushfire Information Line
1300 362 361

During a catastrophic bushfire weather forecast or an actual bushfire, a Parent Information Hotline will be activated.

PARENT INFORMATION HOTLINE
Ph: 1800 000 279

YOUR CHILDREN

and the

BUSHFIRE SEASON

Important information for Parents and Carers 2012/13



Government
of South Australia

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.



Bushfire season can be an anxious time for children and families.

Our schools and preschools in high risk bushfire areas have emergency plans to keep everybody as safe as possible in the event of a bushfire.

Please read this information carefully in the best interests of children.

By being prepared, and acting now, you will help our schools and preschools to be bushfire ready and keep our children as safe as possible.

Thank you for your support.

BEFORE THE BUSHFIRE SEASON

Our schools and preschools prepare for the bushfire season and develop plans for the threat of a bushfire. We consult with fire authorities and building specialists to be better prepared. Our schools and preschools in high risk areas must:

- Complete a Bushfire Safety Audit checklist.
- Prepare buildings and grounds including clearing gutters, and removing vegetation
- Update their Bushfire Action Plan and inform families of changes.
- Practice bushfire safety drills.
- Ensure power-fail telephone handsets and battery powered radios are in working order.
- Ask parents and carers to update their emergency contact details.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We ask parents and carers to:

- Read all bushfire information provided.
- Talk to your children about what will happen if a bushfire occurs when they are at school or preschool.
- Make sure your emergency contact details are up-to-date with our school or preschool.

CATASTROPHIC BUSHFIRE WEATHER DAYS

Catastrophic bushfire days are days when the weather conditions mean a fire is more likely to start and be more difficult to control.

When a catastrophic bushfire weather day is forecast for the following day by the Bureau of Meteorology, all 'high risk' schools and preschools in the declared Fire Ban District will be closed, and school buses and taxis will not operate.

Parents and carers will need to make alternative arrangements for their children on these days.

Schools and preschools will make every attempt to contact parents and carers to inform them that their school or preschool will be closed.

Please make sure your emergency contact details are updated before the bushfire season starts.

APPROACHING BUSHFIRE

If our school or preschool is open and a bushfire is approaching, the safety of children is our highest priority.

The South Australian Police (SAPOL) and the Country Fire Service (CFS) will take charge if a bushfire is approaching. They recommend that in such an event, everybody should remain at their school or preschool unless instructed to do otherwise.

Principals and preschool directors must comply with SAPOL or CFS instructions.

If the police have not advised an evacuation, everyone will remain inside a designated building and emergency procedures will be activated. These will include:

- Moving everybody inside, closing windows, doors, and blocking crevices, cracks and gaps.
- Plugging downpipes and filling roof gutters with water, if there is time.
- Checking that taps are working and filling available containers with water.
- Hosing down walls, garden etc. on the side facing the 'fire-front' and leaving garden sprinklers on.
- Remaining inside and putting fire drill procedures into action with the children until the main fire-front passes.
- Listening to your local ABC Radio Station for information.

We hope that we will never have to enact fire drill procedures. However we are working with our school and preschool communities to be bushfire ready in the event of a bushfire emergency and trust that parents and carers will add their support.