



Somers School Camp



BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students and members of our school community understand:

- (a) that the two campuses of Somers School Camp are listed on the Department's Bushfire at Risk Register (BARR campuses) as different categories. Woorabinda campus is listed as a Category 2 and the Somers campus as a Category 3.
- (b) on a Catastrophic FDR day closure advice will be provided by the respective DET regional office. The DET website will also list all potential and actual closures of schools.
- (c) on Extreme FDR days, only the Woorabinda campus will relocate or close
- (d) that during the event of a fire or threat of fire impacting programs, each campus's Emergency Management Plan (EMP) will be activated.
- (e) how information is provided to staff and students whilst on program at Somers School Camp during the declared fire season.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all school activities during the declared fire season and also when conditions outside this time pose a risk of bushfire.

POLICY

Bushfire At-Risk Register

Schools such as Somers School Camp that are at high risk of fire danger are placed on the Department's Bushfire At-Risk Register. Inclusion on this register is a trigger for Somers School Camp to pre-emptively close on days declared Catastrophic FDR in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

For information regarding closures of schools, see the department's Emergency Closures page. For general information regarding emergencies or Catastrophic FDR days, see the Department's Emergencies page.

Catastrophic FDR day

The Somers and the Woorabinda Campus have been identified as being at high fire risk and on the Department's bushfire at-risk register will close on days determined Catastrophic FDR by the Emergency Management Commissioner.

Where possible, four to seven day's notice of a planned closure will be provided. Parents and carers should expect that in some instances fewer than four days notice may be provided.

Once a Catastrophic FDR day has been determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner this decision will not change – regardless of any changes in the weather forecast. No staff will be onsite on a Catastrophic FDR Day.



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NB: Woorabinda and Somers campuses are located in different districts, therefore it is possible that programs may still be operation from one campus whilst the other remains closed due to a Catastrophic FDR day determination in that campuses' Bureau of Meteorology district.

Woorabinda Campus

Has been categorised as FZ Category 2 BARR site, this means that this site is considered to be at a high risk from bushfire. This categorisation means that the site:

- will not operate from its usual location when fire danger conditions in the Local Government Area are Extreme; and
- will be required to close on CATASTROPHIC FDR days.

Somers Campus

- will be required to close on CATASTROPHIC FDR days.

Emergency Management Plan

The purpose of the Emergency Management Plan (EMP) is to provide a detailed plan of how each school campus will prepare and respond to emergency situations. This EMP applies to all staff, students, visitors, contractors and volunteers at this school campus. This is an EMP located in the Reception of each campus and in various other locations next to phones.

EMP- Bushfire/Grassfire

- Call 000 for emergency services and seek and follow advice.
- Report the emergency immediately to the Chief Warden who will convene the IMT if necessary.
- Determine appropriate response strategy (evacuate or shelter-in-place) in consultation with emergency services, if possible.
- If evacuation is required and time permits before you leave:
 - o make sure you close all doors and windows
 - o turn off power and gas.
- Check that all students, staff, visitors and contractors are accounted for.
- Report the emergency to Security Services Unit on 1800 126 126.
- Listen to TV or local radio on battery-powered sets for bushfire/weather warnings and advice.
- Ensure staff and students do not hinder emergency services or put themselves at risk by going near damaged buildings or trees.
- Notify your region and seek advice from your regional Manager, Operations and Emergency Management if required.
- Direct all Media enquiries to DET Media Unit on 9637 2871.
- Contact parents as required.

See EMP for specific fire rating actions.

Somers School Camp Local Fire Planning Procedure

Prior to all programs being conducted in a high fire danger period the Principal or Campus Principal, in consultation with staff, will assess the current fire risk in the area using the indicators below.



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Fire Danger Assessment Parameters

- Total fire Ban
- Temperature 30 degrees or greater
- Wind speed 30 km/hr or greater
- [Fire Danger Index 30 or greater](#)
- Existing fire within 60 km's of activity venue

If the weather forecast fits 1 or more of the above indicators the risk is considered high and programs may need to be altered, moved to a new venue or cancelled in part or full.

In the event of a program being altered the visiting school will be notified as required and our internal daily precautions will include the following:

1. 'Weather' to be included on all staff meeting minutes agenda as a regular item.
2. "30, 30, 30, 60" bushfire rating system to be included to all relevant session management documents. Eg. Bushwalking
3. Display fire danger rating in office reception area
4. Circulate our procedure to relevant bodies. Eg DET local CFA, local DELWP.

Bushfire & Weather information

www.bom.gov.au - Weather information, observations, Meteye and forecasts

<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/forecasts/fire-map.shtml> fire index

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-and-ratings>

[Vic emergency](#) - List of current and past incidents

[DELWP](#) - Has quick links to fires today, controlled burns in progress and planned burns for the next ten days

ABC local radio- Bushfire emergency updates

Communication

Visiting teacher: will be briefed soon after arrival on the EMP in the event of a fire

Students and visiting teacher: will also be briefed each morning of the areas fire danger rating

BRIEFING NOTES:

Today is listed as a day of extreme fire danger.

Programs may/will be changed. These changes may include;

Outline any activities being cancelled, changing format or venue, or ending earlier.

There is a possibility that in the event of a fire you may not be able to return to Somers/Woorabinda as expected or for some time.



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If you are called to a meeting in the dining room or any other location, please come as quickly as practical. At that meeting you will be told what to do, what to collect and where to go. Therefore, it is very important that you are there promptly.

Please ensure you have any medications with you.

Please do not use your mobile phones as we do not want the lines or the CFA overwhelmed. Items not being taken with you should be packed in your cases/bags and left on the floor in your rooms.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- EMP for Somers and Woorabinda Campuses

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 20/07/22 and is scheduled for review in July 2026