



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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THE 2019-20 BUSH FIRE SEASON

Dear Parents and Carers

Our school has been identified as a school at increased risk if a bush fire were to break out on a day when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is issued for our area.

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the NSW Department of Education has determined that on days when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is issued for our area, the school will temporarily cease operations for the day(s) the rating is current and alternative arrangements will be put in place. This is based on information obtained through a bush fire assessment of our school arranged by the Department.

A Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is likely to occur on a very small number of days during the bush fire season, if at all. On days when the site is not operating due to a catastrophic fire danger rating, the school will have temporarily ceased operations. There will be no staff on site. In such circumstances, please ensure that you put supervision arrangements in place for your child.

Such action is normally taken for one school day only unless there are exceptional circumstances, e.g. the school is temporarily unsafe for use. The school community will be advised of a return to normal operational services or alternative arrangements as soon as possible.

The school will only receive notification of a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating after school hours the day before the forecast is issued. To assist me in contacting all parents please ensure that you have provided the school with up-to-date home or after hours contact detail and email details.

Winmalee High School is reasonably protected in terms of shelter from a fire. It is likely that, in the event of fire, we would remain on site and would take shelter in our School Hall. Evacuation would only occur if the school was under direct threat. In such cases, we would be directed to evacuate by other authorities. Staff and students would be transported to a safe and appropriate destination.

Information for parents and carers about these arrangements is attached. Up to date bush fire information will also be available to you on the Department's bush fire safety website. The link for this site is: <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/news-at-det/bushfire-safety>

Please contact the school on 4754 2822 if you would like any further information about this matter.

Kind regards

Katrina Middlebrook (Principal)