

Bushfire Danger Period Information for Parents and Carers

This brochure provides information for parents and carers about arrangements for the bushfire danger period.

The NSW Department of Education has engaged external experts to conduct assessments of all NSW government schools to identify schools at greater risk of impact from bushfires.

To support the health, safety and wellbeing of students and staff in your school, the department in consultation with NSW Rural Fire Service, will direct the school to temporarily cease operations on days when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating has been declared for your school's NSW Fire Area. Alternative learning arrangements will be put in place for these days.

In addition, schools may be made non-operational due to changing higher risk conditions and relevant advice from emergency services.



What is a Fire Danger Rating?

Fire Danger Ratings describe the potential level of danger should a fire start. The ratings are determined by a combination of factors including air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought. The new Australian Fire Danger Rating System has four ratings; Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic.

For further information on the Australian Fire Danger Rating System, visit - www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/fire-danger-ratings-are-changing-soon

Old Fire Danger Rating sign



New Fire Danger Rating sign





When will I know if my child's school has been made non-operational?

At approximately 4:00 pm each day the Fire Danger Rating is issued for the following day. This means that schools, including onsite preschools, will be notified after school hours that it will be non-operational the following day. Your school will notify you as soon as possible by the preferred method of communication.

Parents and carers are requested to:

- Provide up-to-date home and after-hours contact details to your school.
- Stay up-to-date with news and local media through the bushfire danger period.



NSW School Updates app

Get the free NSW School Updates app to receive operational status updates for NSW public schools – education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/nsw-school-updates-app



What education arrangements will be in place if the school is non-operational?

When non-operational, your school will advise of alternative learning arrangements, including any relocation or learning from home plans.



Learn more

Be prepared and make sure you have your Bushfire Survival Plan in place. The NSW Rural Fire Service has resources for all residents to plan and prepare for the bushfire season. Consider whether your home is safe from bushfires and grassfires and be prepared to relocate to a safer place well in advance.

Find more information and resources on NSW Rural Fire Service – rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare

We appreciate your cooperation during the bushfire season. For further information about Fire Danger Ratings and the bushfire danger period, please refer to – [NSW Rural Fire Service – rfs.nsw.gov.au](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au)

The department's School Safety website education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety provides up to date information during bushfires and grassfire emergencies.

Please contact your school with any additional questions you may have.