



Springwood Public School

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In Darug and Gundungurra Country



17 October 2022

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING BUSHFIRE SEASON 2022

Dear parent/carer,

I am writing to advise you of bushfire emergency arrangements for our school this bushfire season.

Our school is in a bushfire prone area and is listed as Category 1 on the NSW Department of Education's bushfire risk register.

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the Department has determined that on days when NSW Rural Fire Service declares a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating for the Blue Mountains, our school will temporarily cease operations for the following day.

In addition, schools may be made non-operational due to changing higher risk conditions and advice from Emergency Services and the State Emergency Operations Centre.

We recommend that you download the **Parent App** (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/strategies-and-reports/schools-digital-strategy/projects-and-initiatives/nsw-schools-parent-app>) and select to monitor advice from our school which will push notifications to you advising that the school is non-operational.

The Fire Danger Rating does not mean there will be a bushfire, but rather weather conditions that could pose a high risk for a bushfire event. The measure is proactive to ensure staff, students and the community remain safe.

To ensure that we continue to support student learning on these days, I have put the following arrangements in place:

School will be closed if there is a Catastrophic fire rating.

Our school will inform our school community after 4 pm if there is a change to the operational status of the school for the following day. To assist the school in contacting all families please ensure that you have provided us with up-to-date contact details.

Further information on up-to-date communication of school operations, can also be found through:

- Our school website – www.springwoodpublicschool.com
- Advice via the Skoolbag Smartphone App
- NSW Department of Education's School Safety website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety>
- NSW School Updates app: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/nsw-school-updates-app>, and

We recommend that all of our families follow the advice of the NSW Rural Fire Service and ensure that your family knows what to do if there is a fire.

It can take as little as five minutes to make your plan. Discuss it with your family so you know what you will do in the event of a fire. <https://www.myfireplan.com.au/>

Please contact the school on 0247 511 333 if you would like any further information about this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mehmet Mehmet

Principal

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

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.