



LEURA PUBLIC SCHOOL
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respect

responsibility

resilience

23 September 2019

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2019-2020 BUSH FIRE SEASON

Dear parent/carer,

I am writing to let you know about arrangements for our school for the current bush fire season.

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 learning 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. To ensure that we continue to support student learning on these days, I encourage you to involve your children in any of the following beneficial learning opportunities at home: homework, independent recall practise (eg; number facts, sight words, letters, sounds), reading, class related project, gross motor activities, use of online educational websites (eg; Mathletics) diary/journal writing, playing music, making art, family chores.

The school will only receive notification of a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating after school hours the day before the forecast is issued. To ensure you receive any bush fire notifications, please access the Skoolbag app on your mobile device.

Information for parents and carers provided by the department 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: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/inside-the-department/health-and-safety/emergency-planning-and-incident-response/emergency-management-procedures/bushfire-planning>

Please contact the school on 02 47 841 251 if you would like any further information about this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Elise Berwick
Principal



What to do in the event of local bush fire activity

Information for parents and carers

	ADVICE ALERT				EMERGENCY WARNING ALERT
<p>A bush fire has started, there is no immediate danger, our school will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update student rolls and account for early leavers/absences in our school system. ▪ Monitor air quality and adjust school activities accordingly i.e. if smoke affected cease outdoor activities. ▪ Monitor Fire Danger Ratings, <i>Fires Near Me</i> app, <i>Live Traffic NSW</i> app and local ABC Radio. ▪ Parents/carers will be kept informed via Skoolbag. 		<p>There is a heightened level of threat and bush fire conditions are changing, in addition to the Advice Alert procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If possible, we will alert parents/carers the day before via Skoolbag and/or note home. If the district is affected by heavy smoke, consider keeping students with an Asthma Plan at home. ▪ Parents/carers stay updated using the <i>Fires Near Me</i> app, <i>Live Traffic NSW</i> app and/or listen to local ABC Radio. ▪ School will take action to prepare i.e. provide regular updates of bush fire activity to all occupants and prepare bush fire emergency equipment. ▪ We will liaise with Local RFS for support and advice. If required, we will take action to implement our <i>Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan</i>. 		<p>This is the highest level of bush fire alert.</p> <p>Our school will take action to implement our <i>Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan</i>.</p> <p>We will continue liaising with Local RFS and keep parents/carers informed of all actions taken by the school.</p>	

SHELTERING PROCEDURES

In the event of an approaching bush fire threatening our school premises, our primary action is to **SHELTER IN PLACE**.

- All occupants will be relocated and accounted for at our designated refuge.
- Parents/carers **DO NOT COME TO THE SCHOOL** we will be safely sheltering in place and keeping all staff and students calm.
- It's important that parents/carers take measures to activate your family [Bush Fire Survival Plan](#)
- We will continue to keep you informed via Skoolbag.

EVACUATION PROCEDURES

We will be evaluating the safety of all staff and students, with the Local RFS Control Centre, throughout the bush fire event. If the threat is increasing it may be determined that it would be safer for all persons to evacuate to our designated refuge. If an **EVACUATION** is to occur we will:

- Immediately inform parents/carers via Skoolbag.
- Safe transportation will be coordinated to relocate all persons to our designated evacuation refuge.
- Information will be provided all parents/carers and arrangements will be made for the safe pick up of all persons from the designated evacuation refuge.