

9. Bushfire Preparedness

Bushfire preparedness is relevant to all schools, not just rural schools and/or those on the Bushfire At-Risk Register. Metropolitan schools may be at risk from site specific factors (eg. located in a leafy area) or because their students attend offsite activities in bushfire-prone areas. All schools should use this section to document their response to active bushfires, including those that may affect offsite activities.

Bushfire Response Steps

Newsletter Article/Advice sent to parents (February/October)

Re: BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION

As we enter the bushfire season for another year it is important that the guidelines regarding school arrangements for CODE RED days, Total Fire Ban days and bushfire alerts are clearly articulated to all parents. These are as follows:

1. **No** school buses will run on any days that are declared CODE RED to Marian College. This includes the Halls Gap, Pomonal, Moyston, Amphitheatre, Elmhurst, Buangor, Beaufort, Concongella, Stawell, Navarre, Landsborough, Maroona and Willaura routes. All of these buses run through areas that are on the **At Risk Register**, and as such, are unable to transport students on CODE RED days because of the high potential of bush fires.
2. On CODE RED days, parents are asked to ensure students who are remaining at home because their bus is not running are **never** left at home unattended or in the care of older children.
3. **Marian College has not been identified as being at high fire risk**, and as such it will remain **OPEN** on a CODE RED day unless it is directly threatened by fire.
4. If a fire starts during the day that affects a bus route home, the College will be notified by the bus Coordinators at either Stawell or Ararat College. It may be possible that students are not permitted to travel home on the bus in such a situation. Parents will be notified if this occurs, and students will be cared for at school until transportation home can be arranged.
5. While our school has not been identified as being at high fire risk, we do plan offsite activities – such as camps and field trips – during the fire season. If such activities are considered to be at risk from fire, or occur on a Total Fire Ban day-they will be rescheduled or cancelled.

If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan – particularly if you are planning day trips or holidays to fire-prone areas