Bute & District Kindergarten and Rural Care

has a 'high risk' bushfire rating. This means on days of a forecast catastrophic fire danger rating, our school/preschool will be closed. School buses and taxis will not operate within the Fire Ban District.

Bushfire Emergency Contact:
Joann Weckert
School/Preschool number: 88262230

Please note that this number may be engaged during an emergency situation. If you are unable to get through please contact the DECD Parent Bushfire Information Hotline: 1800 000 279

For more information:
DECD Emergency and Crisis Management Website
Department for Education and Child Development
www.crisis.sa.edu.au

SA Country Fire Service (CFS) Website
www.cfs.sa.gov.au

CFS Bushfire Information Hotline
1300 362 361

Alert SA
www.alert.sa.gov.au

During days of forecast catastrophic fire danger ratings or an actual bushfire, the DECD Parent Bushfire Information Hotline will be activated.

DECD Parent Bushfire Information Hotline:
1800 000 279

2014/2015
Fire Danger Season
Information for Families
The fire danger season can be an anxious time for children and families.

Our schools and preschools in high risk bushfire areas have emergency and Bushfire Response Plans, to keep everybody as safe as possible in the event of a bushfire.

By being prepared, and acting now, you will help our schools and preschools to be bushfire ready and keep our children as safe as possible.

Thank you for your support.

Before the Fire Danger Season:

Emergency and Bushfire Response Plans set out the actions our schools and preschools will take to, prepare for the fire danger season and, if necessary, protect your children in a bushfire situation. We work with emergency services authorities (Country Fire Service and SA Police) to ensure that we are well prepared and in the best possible position to protect your child’s safety during a bushfire. Our schools and preschools in high risk areas must:

- Complete a Bushfire Preparation Audit.
- Prepare buildings and grounds including clearing gutters, and removing vegetation
- Update their emergency and Bushfire Response Plans and inform families of any changes.
- Practice bushfire safety drills.
- Ensure power-fail telephone handsets and battery powered radios are in working order.
- Ask parents and carers to update their emergency contact details.

How you can help:

We ask parents and carers to:

- Read all bushfire information provided.
- Talk to your children about what will happen if a bushfire occurs when they are at school or preschool.
- Make sure your emergency contact details are up-to-date with our school or preschool.
- Make a personal Bushfire Survival Plan for your family and tell your school or preschool if this affects your child’s attendance.

Forecast Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating:

Catastrophic fire danger rating days are days when the weather conditions mean a fire is more likely to start and be more difficult to control.

When a catastrophic fire danger rating is forecast for the following day by the Bureau of Meteorology, all ‘high risk’ schools and preschools in the declared Fire Ban District will be closed.

Parents and carers will need to make alternative arrangements for their children on these days.

Schools and preschools will contact parents and carers to inform them that their school or preschool will be closed.

Please make sure your emergency contact details are updated before the fire danger season starts.

Approaching Bushfire:

If our school or preschool is open and a bushfire is approaching, the safety of children is our highest priority.

Our school or preschool’s designated Bushfire Refuge is the safest place for us to be if a bushfire is approaching and this is why schools are not evacuated unless there is no other option or as advised by CFS or other emergency services.

When we move to our Bushfire Refuge we activate the following emergency procedures:

- Moving everybody inside, closing windows, doors, and turning off the air-conditioning.
- Filling available containers with water.
- If it is safe to do so and time permits turning on all sprinklers and irrigation systems.
- Remaining inside and enacting our Bushfire Response Plan with the children until the main fire-front passes.
- Listening to local ABC Radio Station and FIVEaa radio stations for bushfire up dates and information.
- Liaise with the DECD Bushfire and Emergency Management team and the CFS to know when the bushfire is approaching and any changing conditions.

We hope that we will never have to enact our Bushfire Response Plan. However we are working with our school and preschool communities to be ready in the event of a bushfire emergency and trust that as parents and carers we will have your support.