

In the intervening period between the declaration of the pre-emptive closure and the day of planned closure, FESA will monitor weather patterns to keep the Department of Education informed of any change to the forecast for the declared day. The final decision to pre-emptively close the school will be confirmed by the Department with the principal no later than 4.30 pm on the day before the declared day. If the forecast changes after that deadline, the closure will stand, regardless of improvements to the weather conditions later in the afternoon of the day before the declared day or overnight. The intention is to limit confusion or uncertainty for parents and to allow you ample time to make alternative child care arrangements.

Parents will be advised of the *confirmation of closure*, or its *reversal*, by a note sent home with your child on the day before the planned closure. Again, parents of students absent on this day will be contacted by telephone or SMS.

How will I know when the school is reopening?

It is anticipated that the school will only be required to close for a single day at a time, but this will depend on the weather. You will be telephoned or a SMS will be sent by a member of staff to advise you whether the school will reopen the day after the planned closure, or will remain closed.

You are requested to monitor local media for current information about fire danger ratings and notification of schools reopening. Staying tuned to ABC Local Radio on 720AM is advisable. You can also check with FESA on 13 33 37 or www.fesa.wa.gov.au.

Alternatively, you can call the Wheatbelt Regional Office on 9622 0200.

Please contact the school if any of the options listed above for finding out when to send your child back to school will prove problematic.

Need more information?

Contact the school on 9821 3500 if you have any questions about planned closures during the bushfire season.



**Braeside Primary School
Carinya Gardens
Katanning WA 6317**

Telephone: 9821 3500



Bushfire Safety Information

This brochure contains important information about the processes followed when the school is threatened by a bushfire or a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is declared.

At Braeside Primary School we consider the safety of students and staff to be extremely important. Bushfires happen every summer and they usually start suddenly and with very little warning. As our school is surrounded by bushland there is the potential for a bushfire to threaten our school so it is vitally important that all staff, students and parents know what to do in this situation.

PREPARING FOR BUSHFIRE SEASON

The following activities have been implemented to minimize the risk and prepare for the bushfire season:

- Bushfire Response Plan developed.
- School registered for State Alert. BUR Building identified as the on-site 'safe haven'.
- Evacuation drills conducted with students and staff.
- Circle of safety developed by minimizing fuel for a bushfire on the school site.
- Parents advised of school bushfire procedures.
- Parents requested to keep emergency contact

What is a 'Safe Haven'?

The BUR has been selected as the school's 'safe haven' as it is located away from tall trees, surrounded by lawn and paved courtyards, big enough to house all students and staff members, contains student learning materials,



DURING BUSHFIRE SEASON

If a bushfire is judged to be a threat to the school during a school day;

The principal will make contact with emergency services to establish the status of the fire and degree of risk and also liaise with the Wheatbelt Regional Office.

One of the following strategies may be implemented

- normal school program continues
- students evacuated to the designated 'safe haven', i.e. school library
- students evacuated by bus, if available, to an alternative site designated by the Incident Controller.

The school will endeavour to contact all parents if an evacuation is implemented. Parents should stay tuned to ABC Local Radio on 720AM, check with FESA on 13 33 37 or www.fesa.wa.gov.au for updates on the bushfire. Alternatively, parents may call the Wheatbelt Regional Office on 9622 0200. In the event of a bushfire threatening a number of schools simultaneously buses may be limited and it may be safer to remain on-site in the schools 'safe haven' rather than travel during a bushfire due to a number of factors including limited visibility, road closures and changing weather conditions. This may result in parents being asked to pick up their children under direction of DFES.

Should I collect my child from the school? Parents should give careful consideration to the safety of their children before collecting them during a bushfire as road access and visibility may be compromised and additional vehicles on local roads may impede emergency vehicles attending the school.

Students will only be released to a person listed as an emergency contact on a student's enrolment record.

The parent or alternative emergency contact person will be required to sign-out a student before leaving the school or evacuation site.

BUSHFIRE ZONE REGISTER

Braeside Primary School has been added to the Bushfire Zone Register. Inclusion on this register means that the school may be required to invoke pre-emptive closure on a day for which a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating (FDR) has been declared for the town of Katanning in the Shire of Katanning. A Catastrophic FDR means that if a fire starts, it is likely to be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving.



What does this mean for our school? When given advance warning by FESA that a Catastrophic FDR has been forecast for a given day, the Deputy Director General (Schools), may direct the *pre-emptive closure* of Braeside Primary School. If the school receives such a direction, you will be informed of the possible planned closure by a letter sent home with your child. Parents of students absent on the day this letter is sent home will be contacted by telephone or SMS, so please ensure the school has up to date contact details for you.