

**Newham Primary School No. 1913**  
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# NPS Fire Danger Rating Procedures

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. **Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.**

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days notice of a potential Catastrophic day closure by uEducateUs announcement, letter or sms. A Catastrophic day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Catastrophic day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.
- Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted bus route cancellations may affect our school.

On these Catastrophic days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

## **What can parents do?**

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.

**Excellence:** *Resilience* | *Unity* | *Responsibility* | *Respect*

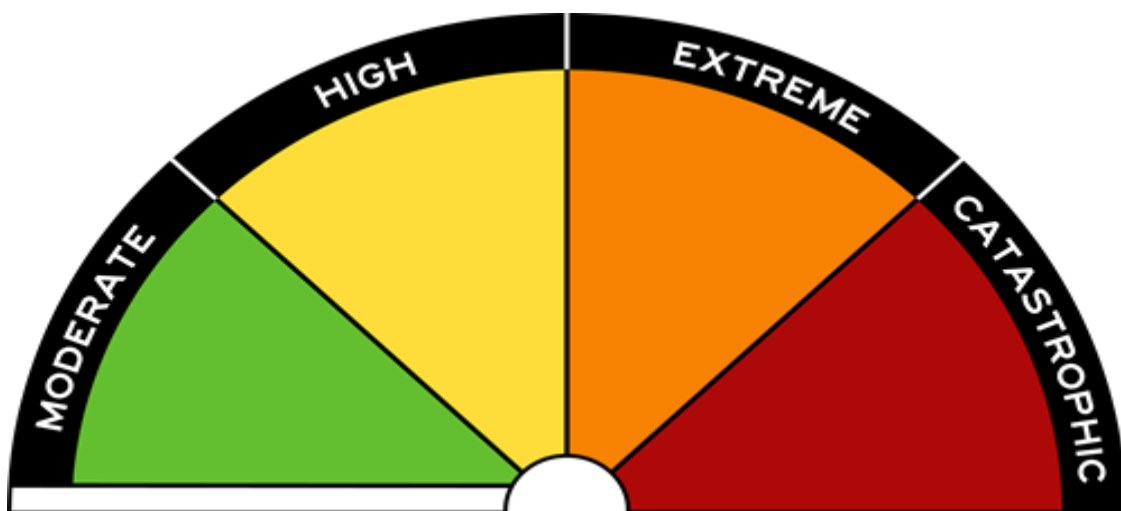
Newham Primary School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. **We have zero tolerance for child abuse.** Newham Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability. **Every person involved in Newham Primary School has a responsibility** to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

- Ensure the school has your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers and email address. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and any communication sent via uEducateUs, by checking our website [www.newhamps.vic.edu.au](http://www.newhamps.vic.edu.au) and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.
- You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the 24-hour VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226.

## The new Fire Danger Ratings



There are four levels of fire danger in the new system:

- **Moderate** - Plan and prepare
- **High** - Be ready to act
- **Extreme** - Take action now to protect your life and property
- **Catastrophic** - For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

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