# bushfire safety information

Essential bushfire safety information for schools and early childhood services ahead of the summer fire season

### Department of Education and Training (DET) and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) have collaborated to provide this information sheet for schools and early childhood services on the Bushfire at-Risk Register (BARR). As the summer fire season approaches, this fire safety information will provide additional support to your school and early childhood service families, and possibly your wider community.

### Communication resources

To assist with informing your families about your school or early childhood services relocating or closing on forecast days of elevated fire danger, DET has produced standardised posters, newsletter articles and other tools of communication that you may choose to adapt and use as appropriate. These are attached to the covering email sent to you by DET informing you of your inclusion on the BARR.

### Emergency Management Planning

Schools have access to an intuitive, user friendly online Emergency Management Planning tool at <https://emergencymanagement.eduweb.vic.gov.au/>. Plans need to be reviewed and updated by 1 September annually.

Early childhood services should continue to use their existing templates and resources for updating their plans by 1 September annually.

Schools and early childhood services should continue to review and update their risk assessments and response procedures so they are site specific and provide the appropriate level of guidance in the event that the procedures need to be activated.

Ensuring your school and early childhood service’s building, safety equipment and surrounds are fire ready is critical to reducing the consequences of a bushfire. Consider using the bushfire readiness checklist (link provided in the covering email) ahead of the fire season. <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/support/BushfireandGrassfireReadinessReviewChecklist.docx> (for early childhood services)

<https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/Services/emergmgmt/Resource%20Library/SchoolSiteBushfireReadinessReviewChecklist.docx> (for schools)

**Student participation in bushfire readiness**

Research indicates that when students have access to accurate knowledge and information regarding bushfires, and are provided with opportunities to actively participate in bushfire planning activities, they can make a valuable contribution to risk reduction at home, at school, and in the broader school community. By actively involving your students in the school’s emergency planning, they will also be better equipped to follow the necessary procedures in the event of a bushfire emergency.

The CFA website has lesson plans that teachers can utilise in the classroom to enhance students’ understanding of bushfire planning and support student participation in the planning process.

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/kids-schools/>

The website has a dedicated section to support schools with information regarding the communication of fire related information to students, families and the broader school community. <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/kids-schools/resources-for-schools-at-risk-of-fire>

**Essential resources for schools**

CFA has a variety of information, programs and tools, which can assist people to plan and prepare for bushfire and grassfire. https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare

This includes ‘*Your Guide to Survival’,* which provides essential information for anyone who lives, works or travels throughout Victoria this summer. https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-guide-to-survival

To assist community members residing in high fire risk areas to prepare their properties and plans, the ‘Fire Ready Kit’ provides more detailed information on summer fire safety: <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fire-ready-kit>

Additionally, here are some activities that you can undertake to support your school community to prepare for bushfire and grassfire:

* Talk to your local CFA Brigade and help promote any scheduled fire ready meetings
* Talk to parents and children about school or early childhood service’s emergency management planning arrangements.
* Contact your local CFA District Community Education Coordinator to arrange a bushfire planning workshop for staff and/or families.

**We wish you a safe summer!**