# GRASSFIRE safety information

Essential grassfire 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 **at risk from grassfire.**

**About Grassfires**

Grassfires can start and spread quickly, especially on days when the Fire Danger Rating is Severe, Extreme or Code Red.

Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire would be if one started. As the ratings increase, so does the risk of uncontrollable fire.

If your educational facility is near grassland, parks or paddocks, you can be at risk, even when your school/early childhood service is on the urban fringe.

Below are the links to available CFA grassfire resources, which whilst principally relating to residential properties, are also relevant to schools and early childhood services.

* [CFA - grassfires- urban messages](https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/grassfires-near-cities-and-towns)[[1]](#footnote-1)
* [CFA - grassfires - rural messages](https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/grassfires-rural)[[2]](#footnote-2)

These links also include fact sheets which you can download and share with your school or early childhood service community.

**Student participation in fire readiness**

Research indicates that when students have access to accurate knowledge and information regarding emergency planning/preparedness, and are provided with opportunities to actively participate in the 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 plan, they will also be better equipped to follow the necessary procedures in the event of a fire emergency.

The CFA website has lesson plans that teachers can utilise in the classroom to enhance students’ understanding of fire safety and support student participation in the planning process. The website also has a dedicated section to support schools with the communication of fire related information to school families and the broader school community. <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/kids-schools/>

**Essential resources for the school community**

The CFA website has a variety of information, programs and tools available to the community, which can assist people to plan and prepare for bushfire and grassfire. This includes ‘*Your Guide to Survival’* which provides essential information for anyone who lives, works or travels throughout Victoria this summer: <http://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 community to plan for bushfire and grassfire:

* Talk to your local Brigade and help promote any scheduled fire ready meetings being held locally and urge families to attend
* Talk to parents and children about the school or early childhood service’s emergency management plan and what it means for them
* 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!**

1. https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/grassfires-near-cities-and-towns [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/grassfires-rural [↑](#footnote-ref-2)