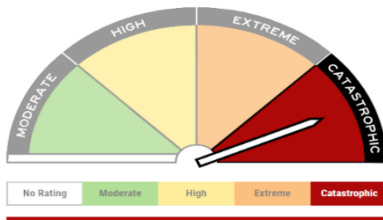


Bushfire Information for Invermay PS Parents

Following the tragedy of the Black Saturday fires across Victoria in 2009, the Victorian Education Department, along with the DSE, conducted a stringent analysis of bushfire risk to all kinders, childcare centres and schools. Invermay Primary School is one of more than 100 facilities that have been identified on a Victorian Bushfire Risk Register.

*** A comprehensive list can be viewed at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/emergencies/bushfires/register.htm>



Schools, kindergartens and child care facilities at the highest risk of fire danger are placed on the Department of Education's Bushfire At-Risk Register. Inclusion on this register is a trigger for the school, kindergarten or child care facility to pre-emptively close on days declared **CATASTROPHIC** in their Local Government Area or Bureau

of Meteorology region.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS & STAFF OF INVERMAY PS?

Closure of our school on a bushfire **CATASTROPHIC rated day:**

1. Closure of our school facility due to a forecast **Catastrophic** day will be confirmed by the Department of Education on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of that school day.
2. **In the event of a planned closure day, our Invermay PS Bushfire Emergency Plan is to offer schooling at the safer residential location of:**
Macarthur St Primary School in Ballarat - 401 Macarthur St, Ballarat
(5km south of our school)
- where our teachers and students are able to safely share facilities for the day -
3. The decision to close will not be made by school Principals or school based staff. The decision to pre-emptively close schools and children's services will be made by the Department of Education, based on warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology and consultation with fire & emergency services.
4. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by both a note home with student and direct phone call to families wherever possible.
5. **Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child whilst their school, kindergarten or childcare centre is closed. It is also important to be aware that:
 - No one 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 forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

**- Invermay PS will be closed -
on CATASTROPHIC fire declared days
in our CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT and/or Ballarat LGA.**

Bushfire Information For Invermay PS Parents

What happens if an external fire threatens our school unexpectedly during a school day with our staff and students already in attendance?

If, for any reason, our school comes under threat on a day not declared Catastrophic and where students and staff are already in attendance (ie: an unexpected localised grassfire on a mild day), our plan is to assemble all students in our F-2 junior school building (which has many fire preventative features that are explained to students and staff at our fire drill sessions).

All staff members have allocated responsibilities in our school emergency plan (which are discussed and rehearsed during our fire drills) - including but not limited to student supervision, communications with parents, liaising with emergency services and the Education Department, First Aid & monitoring radio/internet updates.

Our message for staff, students and families is simple:

1. In the event of an unexpected external fire threat whilst staff and students are in attendance, we will assemble in the safest building in our school (jnr school building) and **we will not evacuate unless advised by the emergency services officer in command.**
2. Whilst the Safe Meeting Point for Invermay community residents is the recreation reserve across the road from our school front, **our school will not rely on any one particular evacuation point. Any possible evacuation will be to a point and direction advised by the emergency services officer in command,** based on all available conditions and information at the time.
3. **In our plan, we ask that families endeavour not to continually call our school landline phone number for updates.** This will be our primary link with emergency services and the Education Department's Emergency Management team. IPS staff assigned to the family communications role will use mobile phones to contact parents/carers, particularly if an evacuation is required. Families could also seek updates on the following media:

You can find more information on emergencies, and preparedness actions here:

- **VicEmergency** App – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
 - **VicEmergency** Hotline (1800 226 226)
Websites <https://emergency.vic.gov.au> www.cfa.vic.gov.au
Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
 - ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters
- 4. **Students will be available for collection at any time, but only by their listed parent / carer or emergency contact.** We cannot release children with friends, neighbours etc who are not listed as an emergency contact in enrolment records.

**- Invermay PS will be closed -
on CATASTROPHIC fire declared days
in our CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT and/or Ballarat LGA.**