

To provide staff and parents with a clear guideline as to the steps and action that the College will take in event of a catastrophic fire danger being announced for the Lower South East District.

Keeping all members of the school community safe is a priority.

The Government recommends that residents leave a Catastrophic fire risk area the day before the risk day and not return until after the risk has passed. The Government is also recommending that residents not travel on a Catastrophic fire risk day. If there is a significant fire in the area, it will be very unlikely that residents will be able to return to their homes as Police are expected to block all major roads and possibly direct people to leave the area. This could be relevant if a parent leaves a child at home on a Catastrophic fire risk day.

We have therefore reviewed our bushfire policies and have made the following decisions:

for students who live in the town or have evacuated to the town.

St Martins school buses which travel through catastrophic areas will operate on catastrophic fire danger days

The process for communicating the declaration by the CFS of a Catastrophic Day (CD) 0.0000080 59.

Excursions and camps outside of Mount Gambier city limits will be cancelled or postponed.

Staff who live in a catastrophic fire risk area or have to travel through this area be expected to attend work on a catastrophic fire danger day. However, staff should notify the College of their absence to ensure they are accounted for.

In the event that a significant bushfire occurs, Department for Education officers will attend the CFS State Coordination Centre or the State Emergency Centre and relay instructions and suggestions from emergency services personnel to the corporate incident control centre, nominated contact officers in the Catholic Education South Australia and the Association of Independent Schools of SA. A SMLC representative may also attend local Coordination Centre meetings to gather instruction.

In the event that an activation of the State Coordination Centre or the State Emergency Centre does not occur and a bushfire threatens to impact the school, the Chief Fire Warden will immediately activate the site's Bushfire Action Plan and prepare to move staff and students into a building that will provide protection from radiant heat unless otherwise directed by emergency services. The Chief Fire Warden may direct students and staff to leave the site and move to a safer location. Emergency warnings issued by fire authorities via SMS will ensure that appropriate action is taken.

