



CATASTROPHIC FIRE DAY POLICY

- Rationale** The effective and efficient management of catastrophic fire risk days is critical for the safety of students, staff and school visitors. In addition, through the following implementation procedures, St Mark's aims to provide a safe environment for the school community.
- Implementation** A catastrophic fire day is when the Fire Danger index reaches or exceeds 100. Many schools in the Fire Ban District will close when the risk rating is also deemed to be extreme, very high or high.
- St Mark's has been audited and assessed as a low risk and therefore will remain open on a catastrophic code red day.
- St Mark's will identify those bus runs that are not operating and communicate to parents via SMS and through phone calls.
- When the school is made aware of a bushfire in the area, all excursions will be cancelled and communication made through SMS and phone calls.
- If a bushfire is declared during the school day and it is not safe for students to return home, St Mark's will enable those students to remain at school until it is safe for parents/guardians to collect them.
- Review** This policy will be reviewed at least every 3 years.

New Fire Danger Ratings		
Category	Fire Danger Index	Action for schools and preschools
CATASTROPHIC (CODE RED)	100+	CLOSED: Schools and preschools in the affected Fire Ban District with an extreme, very high or high risk rating CANCELLED: School bus services travelling through the affected Fire Ban District
EXTREME	75-99	Department of Education & Children's Services to take advice of fire authorities for Adelaide Hills and other high risk areas regarding school closures.
SEVERE	50-74	OPEN: normal bushfire plan procedures apply
VERY HIGH	25-49	OPEN: normal bushfire plan procedures apply
HIGH	12-24	OPEN: normal bushfire plan procedures apply
LOW-MODERATE	0-11	OPEN: normal bushfire plan procedures apply