



DECD policy for ‘Catastrophic’ Fire Days

Site Closure on Forecast catastrophic fire danger rating days:

The policy for dealing with [days of forecast catastrophic fire danger rating](#) requires:

- Closure of R1 and R2 government schools and preschools on days of a forecast catastrophic fire danger rating within the fire ban district. Your [fire ban district](#) can be located on the Country Fire Service (CFS) website www.cfs.sa.gov.au
- Cancellation of all services operating from these sites when the site is closed
- Cancellation of all school bus services (including school taxi services) travelling through the affected fire ban district.

Notification process:

- 1) The Country Fire Service (CFS) advises DECD by 4:00pm of a ‘catastrophic’ fire danger rating forecast for the following day
- 2) Bushfire & Emergency Management (BEM) seeks approval from the Minister for Education and Child Development (or delegate) to temporarily close education and care sites in the affected fire ban district(s)
- 3) BEM advises Regional Bushfire Coordinators of forecast and decision to close sites
- 4) Regional Bushfire Coordinators advise site leaders of forecast and decision
- 5) Site leaders immediately advise families of all children/students who attend their site and any other programs or services that operate from the site (i.e. OSHC, Vacation Care, Playgroups, and Rural Care) of the forecast and decision to temporarily close the site.

When a catastrophic fire danger rating is forecast on the morning of the day of the conditions, affected sites will remain open and school buses and taxi services will operate as usual unless advised otherwise by the authorised Emergency Services personnel. OSHC services will be cancelled.

Fire Danger Ratings (For more information go to the Fire Danger Ratings page on the CFS website).

Category	Action for schools
Catastrophic (TFB)	CLOSED: Schools and preschools in the affected Fire Ban District with an extreme, very high (R1) or high (R2) risk rating. CANCELLED: ALL school bus and taxi services travelling through the affected Fire Ban District.
Extreme (TFB)	Department for Education & Child Development to take advice of fire authorities for Adelaide Hills and other high risk areas regarding school closures.
Severe (TFB)	OPEN: normal bushfire plan procedures apply
Very High	OPEN: normal bushfire plan procedures apply
High	OPEN: normal bushfire plan procedures apply
Low - Moderate	OPEN: normal bushfire plan procedures apply

Response to Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating

'Catastrophic' fire danger rating forecast declared for the following day

Bureau of Meteorology and CFS forecast a catastrophic fire danger rating for the following day. CFS provides relevant weather forecasts to BEM (DECD) by 4:00pm. Approval will be sought by BEM from the Minister for Education and Child Development (or delegate) to temporarily close education and care sites in affected fire ban district(s).

BEM (DECD) notifies Regional Bushfire Coordinators of the forecast and the action to be taken.

Regional Bushfire Coordinators alert site leaders that a 'catastrophic' fire danger day has been declared.

'R1 and R2' sites

Site Leader immediately notifies school community of planned temporary closure, as soon as possible.

YES SITE CLOSED

If the forecast is downgraded (less severe), the closure will go ahead regardless, in order to provide a level of certainty to parents/caregivers and staff.

'R3' sites and non-rated sites

SITE REMAINS OPEN

Site Leader notifies community of any school buses and taxi services that **WILL NOT** operate through affected fire ban districts.

Site Leader activates bushfire action plan, including:

- notifying parents, bus contractors, tenants, community hirers, out of school hours child care programs etc.,
- school contractors (i.e. cleaning) and construction workers that the school will be closed on the day concerned;
- posting school closure signage;
- notifies the Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board SA of closure of OSHC/ Vacation Care service, and
- monitoring fire danger rating for the next day.

'Catastrophic' fire danger rating forecast declared on the morning of the day of the conditions

**R1 & R2 SITES
REMAIN OPEN**

**Buses and taxi
services run as usual**

Unless advised otherwise by authorised Emergency Services personnel.

Site Leader activates bushfire action plan, including:

- Monitoring CFS warnings
- Notifying Education and Early Childhood Services
- Cancellation of excursions, sporting events and Out of School Hours Care.