



Woronora River Public School

BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

October 2013

Please note changes to previous plans.

The Department of Education and Communities has rated Woronora River Public School in a high risk category for bushfire.

On days identified by the Rural Fire Service to be a **catastrophic** fire danger rating for the Greater Sydney Region, WRPS will be **closed**.

Catastrophic weather forecast predictions are normally made in advance. When there is a warning that catastrophic weather is likely the Principal will remind the whole school community of the procedures below in case the forecast remains in place. An information note will be sent home with all students. This is an indication that parents should be listening to local media and be prepared.

The Principal will be advised of a catastrophic weather forecast via email at approx. 4.30pm the day before the predicted conditions. Parents, staff, the BASC coordinator and any community users of the school site will then be sent an SMS alerting them of the weather forecast. Families without a mobile phone will be contacted via landline. A notice will be placed on the school website and a sign will be put on display at Woronora River Public School which indicates the school is non-operational. Parents should also listen for warnings on the news and may monitor the Rural Fire Service website for additional information, www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Once a text message is sent to declare the school closed due to catastrophic weather conditions the school will remain closed until further advice is sent via text message. In the event that the mobile phone messaging service fails to operate, parents will need to rely on the Rural Fire Service and the media to obtain information. If you live in an area with poor mobile coverage, please be extra vigilant.

BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY PLAN – Reactive Measures

This plan will be put into operation if a fire develops during the school day which warrants action. The actions taken will depend totally on the nature and location of the fire and its proximity to the school. The school staff will follow the direction of emergency service personnel. "If time permits" will govern response. The roads surrounding the school are narrow and would not cope with a large numbers of cars arriving to collect children. Plans identified are designed to minimise risk to students, provide detailed communication with parents and limit the volume of traffic on Prices Circuit.

❖ **Evacuation of the students from the site.**

The students will be evacuated to a safe site by bus. Parents will be informed by sms and landline (for those without mobile service). Parents will be able to collect students from this site throughout the day. If possible, the evacuation site will be the Sutherland United Services Club.

❖ **Evacuation of the students from the site to an identified meeting point**

Students will be walked to the Rural Fire Brigade Centre near the bridge or across the footbridge to Prince Edward Park. Parents will be informed of this action by sms and landline (for those without mobile service). Parents will be able to collect students from the meeting point.

❖ **Students remaining on site**

If it is deemed by emergency services personnel there is not enough time to move the students, they will remain on site. All students will be taken to Block I. Parents will be informed by sms. Parents will not be able to collect their children until after the emergency has passed. Emergency vehicles will have top priority in accessing the area.

Pam Walmsley

Principal