

## MCAS Bushfire Plan 2025/2026: ALL FAMILIES PLEASE READ & KEEP HANDY

This provides important information about the updated Bushfire Action Plan that will be followed at Mount Compass Area School.

Department for Education schools in declared bushfire prone areas have been allocated a bushfire risk rating from R1 through to NR. **Our risk rating is R2.**

**Our R2 rating means Mount Compass Area School closes when the forecast is for CATASTROPHIC conditions in the Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Ban District.**

**No services will be offered to students and their families on these fire closure days.**

**School bus services will also be cancelled on days where the forecast is for catastrophic bushfire weather conditions in the Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Ban District.**

Department for Education SEM will receive advice from the Bureau of Meteorology and the SACFS, after 4 pm, about the following day's forecast. In the case of forecast CATASTROPHIC fire weather conditions and School Closure, our school will send an EdSmart broadcast and post on the Facebook page to alert families of any such closure. Information will also be provided on the DfE Emergency Information Hotline (1800 000 279), ABC Radio for local regional stations, ABC TV and the Department for Education website <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/>.

**On any other routine school day, if a fire threatens the school during school hours then JUNIOR SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL and STEM buildings have been designated as our Bushfire Shelter In Place areas.**

All students and staff from the school will assemble and stay there until the fire danger has passed.

- R-5 students stay in Junior Primary building.
- Year 6-8 will go to the Middle School building.
- Year 9-12 will go to the STEM building.
- It is important that parents understand that no one leaves the Bushfire Shelter In Place areas until the situation outside has been assessed as safe by the school's Incident Response Group in consultation with the Emergency Services. Students retained at the school will be supervised in JS/STEM/MS. Students and parents are requested not to personally negotiate pick-ups. Student names, along with the names of the people collecting them, will be recorded as they leave the Bushfire Shelter In Place building.

Nominated staff will remain on duty to care for students until parents collect them.

**If there is a fire in the Mount Lofty Ranges region that could impact on regular bus routes** then buses will not be permitted to leave the site until SEM (and subsequently the DfE TSU) have been advised by SACFS and / or SAPOL that it is safe to do so. If a bushfire prevents the school buses leaving the site or students from boarding public buses then students will be supervised at school until they are collected by parents. Students will not be released into the care of 'family friends/relatives' unless a direct contact to the main school Reception desk is made by the parents concerned. Students who travel on buses will be taken through the procedures to be followed if the bus is caught in a fire path during a trip to or from school.

**On days when there is EXTREME fire danger rating SCHOOL WILL RUN AS NORMAL.**

Student excursions away from site may be cancelled for the day and rescheduled by the teacher.

Off-site meetings for staff may also be cancelled. These decisions will be made by the school's Incident Response Team

**It is critical that the school has up to date information about contact details for all families, including parents' work numbers, mobile numbers, emergency contact names and phone/mobile numbers.**

Parents may find it helpful to build a network of communication and a student collection plan with a group of people who live nearby.

Up to date contact details for all school staff, including OSHC and cleaning staff is equally as important to ensure that families are contactable in an emergency situation.