

Bushfire Plan



1 Purpose

St John's Grammar campuses have been identified as High-Risk Bushfire zones. This plan provides an outline of preventative measures undertaken to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the school community.

2 Scope

This document applies to:

- All students enrolled at the school.
- All employees, staff, and volunteers.
All members of the Governing Board and sub-committees.
- All third-party providers and external users of school facilities.

3 Introduction

St John's Grammar School campuses have been assessed for bushfire risk by the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS). Site risk ratings are as follows:

Campus	Rating	Belair CFS Access
Secondary Campus	Very High bushfire risk	The Centsys app which allows them to open Price Avenue Gate (Secondary Campus) This allows direct access to the water tanks located by the Price Avenue gates.
Junior Campus	Very High bushfire risk	Master keys for the gates
ELC & Junior School Chapel	Extreme bushfire risk	Master keys

The MFS require two school contacts should an event requiring their attendance be required. At St John's Grammar the Property and Facilities Manager is the primary contact, and the Business Director will be the secondary contact.

4 Prior to Bushfire Season

Fire danger seasons in South Australia generally commences on 1 November and concludes on 30 April the following year.

St John's Grammar will work with the CFS to assist with preparing for the bushfire season. A review of our campuses will be conducted by the Property and Facilities Manager at the end of September each year to ensure preparedness for the bushfire season. The review will focus on fuel reduction, fire equipment, communication systems, water supply and record management. This includes:

- The water sprinkler system is tested weekly during bushfire season.
- Communication will be sent to parents to remind of our procedures in the event of a bushfire impacting the school. This communication will be sent at the beginning of Term 1 and 4 each year.

5 During Bushfire Season

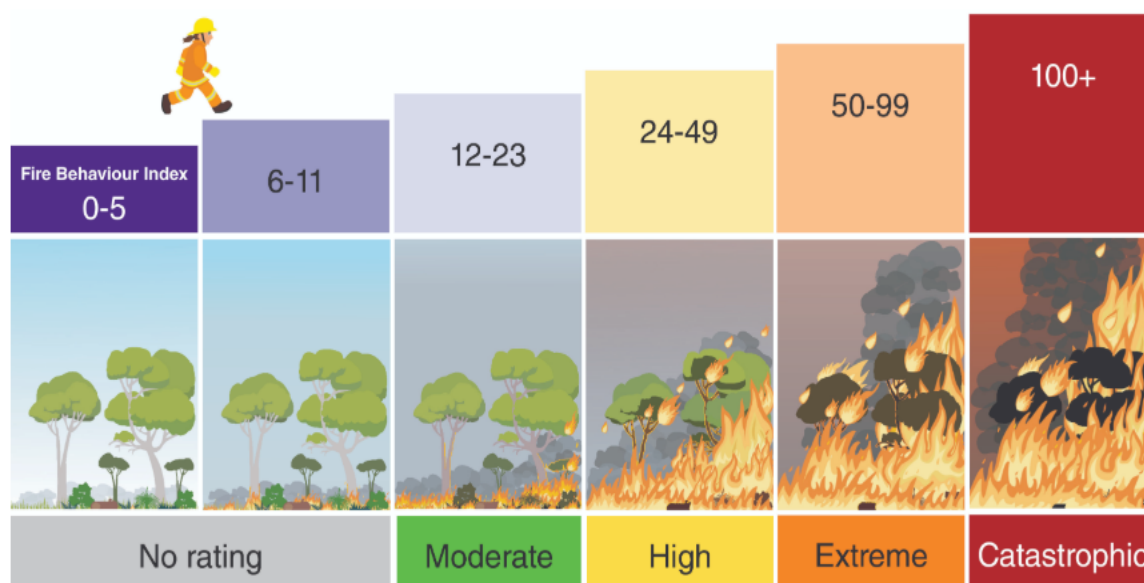
- Regular monitoring of the CFS website and official Government alerts will occur by Property and Facilities Manager.
- The Principal or delegate will make critical decisions if a bushfire event occurs and ensures communication to staff and the school community.

Decisions about campus closure during bushfire season will be based on the Australian Fire Danger Rating System and Fire Behaviour Index (see image below).

What is the Fire Behaviour Index (FBI)?

The Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) is a simple numerical scale that can be used consistently across Australia, allowing users to make decisions that require finer detail than the four Fire Danger Rating categories allow. The FBI runs from 0 to 100 and beyond, with increasingly high values indicating increasingly dangerous fire behaviour and therefore fire danger risk.

The FBI is split into step-up categories to support decision making for fire operations. Each step represents a transition in fire behaviour, such as a significant change in potential fire spread, suppression difficulty or the expected scale of impact to life and property (see figure below).



Therefore, the FBI is geared toward supporting operational decision making, including:

- Indicative fire behaviour and fire weather.
- Implications for prescribed burning.
- Fire suppression and containment strategies that are appropriate.
- Potential level of impact on life, property and infrastructure.

5.1 Catastrophic Fire Rating

Days deemed as **Catastrophic** according to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) will result in the closure of all school campuses. This will be communicated to the School Community via email and SMS by 6pm the day before.

Staff are not to attend any campus whilst this closure is in effect.

Boarding House and Homestay students will abide by the Catastrophic Fire Day Management Plan.

5.2 Extreme Fire Rating

On days deemed as **Extreme** according to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS), the following procedures will be implemented:

- Signs with “Extreme Fire Danger Day” will be displayed outside the main gates of each Campus warning the community of fire danger.
- The **Secondary Campus** and **Junior Campus** will remain open. The ELC & the Junior School Chapel will remain open if the Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) remains below 75.
- ELC Families will not be charged on these days if they elect **not** to send their child/ren to the ELC.
- A daily FBI prediction of 75 or higher represents an unacceptable level of risk to the safety of our students and staff and will dictate the subsequent **closure of the ELC** on that day.
 - This will be communicated to the ELC Families via email and SMS by 6pm the day before. Bollards and bunting will be installed at the carpark entrances preventing access to ELC and JS Chapel.

5.3 High Fire Rating

On days deemed as **High Fire Rating** according to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS):

- Signs with “High Fire Danger Day” will be displayed outside the main gates of each Campus warning the community of fire danger.

6 Shelter-in-Place (Bushfire)

If St Johns Grammar Emergency Response Team activates the Emergency Response Management procedure for Shelter-in-place (Bushfire):

- All families will be notified via SMS and will be unable to attend the affected campus/es.
- Students **will not be dismissed** from school until the situation has been deemed safe by authorities.
- School bus services may be cancelled or diverted.
- Parents will be notified via SMS when it is safe to attend campus and collect their child/ren.
- Students will only be released to a parent or a nominated emergency contact.

Each Campus that their own Emergency Response Management Plan.

Version History

Version No.	Description of Changes	Effective Date
V1.0	Document Created	2010
V2.0	Document was reviewed	April 2023
V3.0	Document updated in line with the new Documented Management Procedure and changes to reflect current practices.	5 Nov 2025