

Dwellingup Primary School

10 Newton Street
Dwellingup WA 6213
Telephone: 0895381026
Fax: 0895381301
ABN: 83956672417



Information for Parent's on Bushfire Procedures for Dwellingup Primary School ~ Bushfire

In the event of a bushfire threatening the school, the school will notify DFES and the **Bushfire Plan** will be invoked by way of the school siren with a series of three sequenced blasts, or if the power is out, by way of the large external bell with three sequenced rings.

Bushfire- Watch community

During a bushfire, Emergency Services provide as much information as possible through a number of different channels. There are three levels of warning, **ADVICE, WATCH AND ACT** and **EMERGENCY WARNING**. These change to reflect the increasing risk to life and the decreasing amount of time you have until the fire arrives.

Advice

If the school is likely to be threatened by the fire, activate the Emergency Management Plan immediately. Notify DFES Communication Centre of your decision and relocation point.

An **ADVICE** provides you with information on a bushfire that is not threatening lives or property but may be causing smoke near the school. Turn off evaporative air conditioners. Regular checks of the school are to be undertaken paying special attention to the evaporative air conditioners.

Watch and Act

A **WATCH AND ACT** message tells you the fire conditions are changing and there is a possible threat to lives and the school. The Principal's decision to leave or relocate students, staff and visitors off site should be based upon assessment of known information and current circumstances, including advice from emergency services or observations at the time of the event.

Emergency Warning

An **EMERGENCY WARNING** is the highest level of warning and tells you of immediate danger. In some circumstances it may start with a siren sound called the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) to get your attention as the fire is about to arrive. SEWS is a distinctive sound that is broadcast immediately prior to major emergency announcements on radio, television and other communication systems. SEWS tells people 'you need to listen- there is an emergency in your area and you need to take action now'. It is used like a siren and is strictly controlled for use by an authorised hazard management agency only.

The School should activate their Bushfire Plan in regards to evacuation. Consideration will include; location of fire and ability to travel safely to the selected relocation point, notify DFES Communication Centre of your decision and relocation point. The Principal is to liaise with the Regional Executive Director. **If it is not safe to evacuate, direct all students, staff and visitors to the school's Safer Location.**

Bushfire- Act

Response when a bushfire starts and the school is open

- Evacuation Procedure

- The siren will ring in three short bursts.
- Because our buildings are on two sites, the students will go straight to their classrooms if its recess or lunch time.
- Any students or teachers who are not in their rooms when the siren is sounded will go directly to their rooms.
- Teachers will then mark the roll and quietly walk the students across the road to the ECE Room 1 building to wait for evacuation.
- All other staff will meet in the Front Office and report to the Registrar and walk across the road to the Assembly area at the ECE.

- The Principal will check with each teacher and the Registrar to make sure all students and school personnel are present.
- **If anyone is missing police will be informed.**
- Doors and windows must be closed and **evaporative air coolers turned off.**
- Students with known respiratory conditions will be identified and given special consideration.
- Principal will control this response until DFES and other emergency services arrive, who will then take over.
- The local town assembly area in Dwellingup during a bushfire is the Town Oval. There are only three roads out of Dwellingup and they are all bounded by tall Jarrah forest. We are to work in unison with DFES and the Shire of Murray's Emergency Management and take directions from these organisations.

Safer Location Procedure – if evacuation is not possible

School to remain on site on advice from DFES.

Early Childhood Education Room 1. This building is located adjacent to our main school buildings. It is new, has reverse cycle air conditioning and is at the Eastern end of the school grounds. Fires usually come from the North-North West so this is the safest place for our students and staff to assemble.

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- Parent Access

Parents will be informed by SMS services where to collect their children. For parents without a mobile phone to receive the SMS, they will be encouraged to call the school on 9538 1026 or 0488 225 888 (Bushfire Plan). It will also be put onto the school's Facebook page and all parents who have emails will be advised. This will be done upon advice from the HMA's Incident Controlling Officer.

In the information regarding Fire Emergency, parents will be informed via the Bushfire Plan that our procedure will be that parents are to pick up their children and to monitor the local media for specific access information. Dwellingup parents are skilled in the knowledge of what to do when they are first alerted to a bushfire and they come straight to the school, get their children and head out of town.

If there are children not picked up the school will evacuate off-site on advice from DFES

- Pinjarra Senior High School. If the ECE building is deemed by the Police and DFES to be an unsafe lockdown/ refuge area, the students and staff will be directed by these authorities to evacuate to Pinjarra SHS for parent pickup. This will keep traffic congestion at a minimum in the fire zone. It will be the HMA's (Hazard Management Agency) Incident Controllers task to make these arrangements. This information will be distributed to parents via SMS, Facebook and the ABC.