



EST. 1877

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Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Bushfire Safety 2018

For Your Information:

Balaklava Primary School is **NOT** a high-risk school
or in a recognised bushfire prone area.

Therefore school closures based on the predicted forecast *do not* apply to us.
However.....

Our school and school bus runs are located in the Mid North Fire Ban District
and therefore if a Catastrophic Day is declared in this district,
no buses will operate however the school remains open.

Please note: The Beaufort bus runs through both the Mid North and Yorke Fire Ban Districts. If a Catastrophic Day is declared in either area the bus will not run.

Bus and Students, Policy and Procedures

1. Policy Statement

Balaklava Primary School is committed to providing and maintaining a safe work environment and therefore has developed procedures to ensure, as far as is reasonably practical, the safety of staff, students and visitors from risks of injury caused by bushfires.

The school therefore will adhere to relevant Department of Education and Children's Services policies and Occupational Health Safety and Welfare regulations and other relevant procedures local to our area and the surrounding areas where bushfires may be situated. This may include policies by the Wakefield Regional Council, other local councils through which our buses travel, the CFS or Fire Command Centre procedures, whenever necessary or practicable.

2. Procedures

Managers' Responsibilities

The principal, deputy and line managers responsible for induction will ensure that staff are aware of and adhere to this policy.

That the parents, students, bus drivers, Balaklava Community Children's Centre, Balaklava High School and Horizon Christian School are made aware of our policy and procedures and its implications. Adhering to this policy will support the safety of all students catching buses managed by Balaklava Primary School and who live outside the town area.

Bushfire in close proximity to the school.

Before allowing any students to leave our school in the event of a **known bushfire** nearby, although we are not identified as a bushfire risk school, the principal or deputy will ensure that an assessment of the risks associated to the students, staff and school community is undertaken and that reasonable steps are taken to control those risks. (Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Risk Control).

In the event of a **known bushfire**, all bus students who would normally travel into the affected area will be detained at school, preferably inside (eg Open Space Unit). The Parents/Caregivers

and/or Emergency Contacts will be contacted *if at all possible* to let them know of this arrangement.

If notification about a fire comes after the bus has left, bus drivers will be notified not to leave students at their usual pick up/ drop off spot, unless their adult caregiver or parent is present. However adults should not wait at a bus stop if there is a fire in the area, as children will not be left on their own- but returned to school.

Parents/Caregivers volunteering in the CFS and who cannot pick up their children should notify the school to make alternative arrangements.

In the event buses encounter a **bush fire during their route**, drivers may choose to divert from their usual route and return to school. Where possible drivers will contact the school to notify of this change and likely route to be taken. Parents/Caregivers and/or Emergency Contacts will be contacted *if at all possible* to let them know which students have returned to school. Drivers should not drive through smoke if at all possible.

As instructed by the CFS, parents are strongly encouraged to listen to news bulletins for Fire Danger Index updates and to make arrangements for their children as necessary to avoid them being *at home alone if the index forecast is at Very High (25-49) or above*.

Evaluation & Policy Review

The Balaklava Primary School Occupational Health and Safety Committee will conduct an annual review of systems and ensure that the staff and parents/caregivers, bus drivers and students are aware of these procedures and are in accordance with this policy.

Staff Responsible for Health and Safety Areas of the School in 2012

Staff in charge of particular areas (as specified below) will be responsible for the management of these procedures and communication with those listed below.

This includes hazard checks, action plans and action for these areas. They will also be responsible for maintaining Safe Operating Procedures and communication with parents, bus drivers, relevant schools and parent/caregivers and/or emergency contacts.

Staff designated to care for students after school hours in a safe area within the school, or nearby evacuation area, are also listed and are made aware of their duties.

| Area | Person Responsible |
|---|---|
| Evacuation area: Open Space Unit | Principal, Deputy Principal, other designated staff |
| Communication with CFS and Fire Command Centre | Principal, Deputy Principal other office staff |
| Communication with parents/caregivers/contacts | Diane, other office staff |
| Communication with other schools BCCC, BHS, Horizon | Principal, Deputy Principal |
| Communication with bus drivers | Principal, Deputy Principal |
| Communication with DECS | Principal, Deputy Principal |
| Sending information home each year about this policy and procedures | Principal |

Parent Responsibility

Parents are responsible for keeping school updated with all current parent contact, **and** emergency contact, phone numbers and addresses.

Please listen to the local radio or check the CFS website when weather conditions indicate there could be a possible Catastrophic Day. The school will also endeavour to contact all parents if a Catastrophic Day forecast in the area.