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Principal: Mr Michael Bowmer

St John's Lutheran School, Eudunda Inc.

BUSHFIRE PLAN

"Learning to Serve"



Rationale

The school is located within the Mid North fire ban district and the official fire danger season usually runs from 1st December to 30th April. The area around the school is partly treed and partly cleared and the fire history in the area is limited. The SACFS *Bushfire Management Plan - Risk Register - March 2018* determined the site and surrounding landscape of St John's Lutheran School to be of **high risk**. As a result, St John's will be closed on days declared **catastrophic**.

The designated fire refuge is the Eudunda Oval but will only be a refuge if the school is at risk. In the event that a bushfire was to threaten the immediate community (including surrounding towns), St John's reserves the right to 'lock down'.

The Principal has the authority to determine which course of action is appropriate, given the information they have about conditions, students, local circumstances, location of families, building construction etc.

The Principal (or delegate) will advise Emergency Services of any action taken by the school when appropriate.

Our Bushfire Plan:

This Bushfire Plan is developed in consultation with local fire authorities. It deals with:

- closing the school on days of catastrophic fire risk;
- travel on school buses when a catastrophic fire day is called;
- communication to the school community when a catastrophic fire day is called;
- emergency contacts
- parent/caregivers responsibilities

Closing the school on days of catastrophic fire risk.

St John's families should be aware that the school will be closed on days of catastrophic fire risk. If the day is declared as catastrophic whilst students are at school:

- we require students to be picked up and signed out by parents/caregivers
- we will only release students to an alternate carer if express permission has been given by parents (written note or phone call).
- we will endeavour to maintain contact with families
- we will retain all students who are not able to be collected in the school hall. In this case the school will attempt to contact parents/caregivers by SeeSaw/Facebook/SMS and would be required to collect students when it becomes safe to do so.

In the event that students remain at the school, the following roles have been assigned. Nominated staff are required at the school until released by the Principal

- Principal – communication with emergency services / media
- Admin – communication with families (sign in and out students / release students to alternate carers)
- Receptionist – manage phones
- Teaching staff who are able to remain at the School are asked to supervise students

Bus travel on a day declared as catastrophic

St John's Lutheran School reserves the right to:

- Cancel bus travel for SJLS students on catastrophic days
- Cancel bus travel for SJLS students on non-catastrophic days where there is deemed to be a risk to safety
- Cancel bus travel for SJLS students to areas with no fire activity, but where the bus travels through an area declared as presenting risk or declared Catastrophic

St John's students travel on DECD, Link SA and St John's owned buses. The following outlines the procedures for all bus services / operators / services.

While the following details the procedure for bus travel on days declared catastrophic, St John's families are reminded that the school reserves the right to cancel services where there is a perceived risk to students, even if the day has not been declared catastrophic.

DECD Bus travel: On days declared catastrophic, it is the policy of DECD to cancel the Robertstown and Keller bus services.

LINK SA Bus travel: (www.linksa.sa.com.au) Declaration of catastrophic day in Mid North area will see the cancellation of the following bus services:

Australia Plains
Julia/Hampden
Neales Flat
Bower
Hansborough

St John's Bus Travel: St John's operates one bus route and does use its own bus for the purpose of excursions, camps and transporting students to school sanctioned events and activities.

Where it is known that a bushfire is likely to threaten part of a route, the bus driver, under no circumstances, should depart the school before obtaining clearance from the Principal.

Where unexpected bushfire threatens a bus in transit, no attempt should be made to drive along roadways obscured by smoke or flame, unless a clear direction to do so is given by a Fire Control Officer. In the event that no direction is received the driver should...

- reverse the route, return to a safe refuge and notify, as soon as possible, the Principal, Bus Coordinator and local emergency service
- immediately designate a staff member to monitor conditions and communicate with the School and relevant authorities.

Communicating that a catastrophic day has been declared

On the day that has been declared catastrophic, St John's will notify all staff and families via the school's Facebook page or SMS (as soon as is practicable) that a catastrophic declaration has been made.

Normally the declaration of a catastrophic day will occur between 4pm and 6pm on the day preceding the catastrophic day. If this declaration is made during the school's opening hours, and if this information is provided to the school, then St John's will notify parents via school's closed Facebook page and Seesaw. Families should not rely upon St John's to be the sole source of communicating the declaration of a catastrophic day.

Emergency Services Contacts

- CFS Emergency 000
- CFS Hotline [fire information] 1300 362 361

- CFS Headquarters 8115 3300
- Police - Eudunda: 8581 1100
Kapunda: 8566 2266
Nuriootpa: 8568 6620
Gawler: 8522 0400

St John's School Emergency Phone Contacts

- (08) 8581 1282
- Principal, Michael Bowmer mobile: 0422 339 239

Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities

- ensure St John's has up to date parent/caregiver contact information (mobile, email etc.)
- complete the Alternate Student Collection and Accommodation form as a matter of priority
- take steps to determine if a catastrophic day has been declared
- have a bush fire plan that includes knowing in advance what you will do on a catastrophic day knowing that your children will be staying home.
- talk to your children about your bushfire plan
- be familiar with this policy
- monitor radio station ABC891 on a battery-operated radio
- respond to a decision made by St John's Lutheran School to cancel bus services and therefore arrange collection of children from the school.

Reviewed March 2020