



Appendix 4 – Letter to Parents and Bushfire Response Form

Dear Families

We wish to advise you of our plans to cope with any bushfire emergency, including catastrophic fire danger days. The College does not want any student or member of the College community to be placed at any risk from a bushfire.

Southern Vales Christian College obtains information on bushfires through the CFS Website &/or ABC 891 AM radio and from the Association of Independent Schools of SA (AISSA). The AISSA is normally notified of significant bushfires.

The College will seek to comply with bushfire warnings from emergency management authorities. When the College is aware of a bushfire in an area, we will cancel any excursions or trips into that area.

If a Catastrophic Fire Danger Day is declared

College buses (including buses chartered by the College) will not operate that day in the region/s affected by the warning.

Families living in or having to travel through regions that are at risk on catastrophic days should not send their children to College on those days. Likewise, staff living in or having to travel through regions that are at risk should not attend College on those days.

If a bushfire starts during a College day

- Buses will not operate on non-catastrophic days on which bush fires occur.
- Students who normally travel into or through the area at risk will be required to attend a special assembly before the end of the school day.
- These students will be supervised at College and only allowed to leave if collected by either a parent or a nominated person as advised by the parent. These students must be signed out at the front offices regardless of the time of departure, including normal dismissal time.
- In the event that students remain at College because of a bushfire, the College will endeavor to contact parents and the College phones will be staffed – Morphett Vale: 8381 9877; Aldinga: 8556 6118.
- Parents will be contacted if the nominated person designated by the family has not collected the student.
- Those students who do not have refuge accommodation will be supervised at the College – overnight if necessary.
- In the event that a College bus run is unable to operate in the morning because of an overnight fire, the College would contact families impacted by this decision.

In the event that communications to the College are not functioning, parents are encouraged to contact the Bushfire Information Hotline on 1300 362 361.

To enable the College to manage these situations, we ask all families to complete the attached form.

If your home is in an area that may be at risk from a bushfire or your child/ren travel to and from College through an area that may be at risk from a bushfire, please indicate this and provide details of an alternative accommodation provider to which your child/ren can be directed if necessary.



To assist the College in determining students who may be at risk if there is a bushfire, please also indicate the suburbs/towns/main roads normally used to and from your home.

It is recommended that the alternative accommodation provider is in an area that is regarded by the CFS as a Bushfire Safer Settlement or Bushfire Safer Precinct that can be safely accessed from the College. Details of Safer Settlements or Safer Precincts are available at www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/bushfire/home.jsp

Even if your child/ren are not at any risk please indicate this on the attached form and return it so that we can be sure that no one is missed.

Please inform us of any changes that may impact on whether it is safe for your child/ren to travel home in the event of a bushfire.

The College has developed *Catastrophic Fire Danger Procedures* which will be available on our website by the end of Week 2.

Yours in Christ
Andrew Clayton
Principal



BUSHFIRE RESPONSE FORM

Every family is requested to complete the following information (whether you are in a risk area or not) and return it to the Front Office of your child's Campus.

Family:

Address:

- 1. IS YOUR HOME IN AN AREA THAT MAY BE PARTICULARLY AT RISK FROM BUSHFIRE? YES / NO
- 2. DOES YOUR CHILD/REN TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL THROUGH AN AREA THAT MAY BE PARTICULARLY AT RISK FROM BUSHFIRE? YES/NO

If your answer is YES to either question, please advise:

Names of student/s:

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Student/s at other schools:

Name: School:

Name: School:

Alternative Accommodation:

Name of Contact Person:

Relationship to family/students:

Address:

Contact Numbers: Hm:..... Wk: Mb:

Details where travel to and from school is through an area or areas that may be particularly at risk from bushfire: – e.g. suburbs/towns; main roads taken; any other relevant information:

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