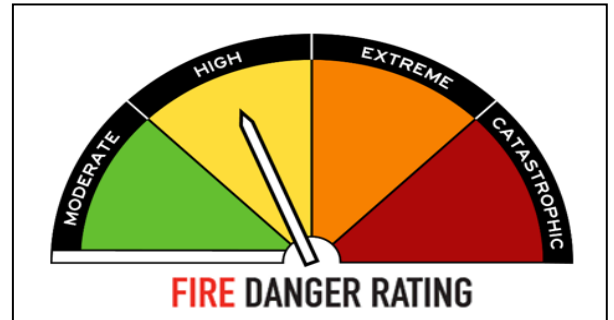


School preparedness and pre-emptive actions for the bushfire season



Schools and early childhood services undertake a range of activities each year to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.

The Department of Education conducts an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. Those at the greatest levels of risk are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and Category 4 list.

Schools at the highest levels of risk (Categories 0, 1 and 2) take pre-emptive actions on elevated fire danger days in their Local Government Area according to their fire risk category to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions.

All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

As part of preparing our college for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and prioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What does this mean for our college?

Our college has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a **Category 4 (Warragul Campus only) school**.

When will CCG/ECG be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Due to being a Category 4 school the Warragul Campus will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in West and South Gippsland Fire District **fire district**.

In Addition to this, all CCG/ECG campuses will close on days declared catastrophic. See 320-1A — Catastrophic Fire Days Policy for further information.

Closure of CCG/ECG due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you via email and/or text notification through our online student management system,

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the College is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our website [[Community College Gippsland \(ccg.asn.au\)](http://Community College Gippsland (ccg.asn.au)), [ECG Secondary College \(ecg.vic.edu.au\)](http://ECG Secondary College (ecg.vic.edu.au))], by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our college is **closed** due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Enact your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are enacting your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app — that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- X (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters