

## BUSHFIRE RESPONSE PLAN

Bushfires are a natural and regularly occurring event in Australia. However, bushfires have the potential to cause catastrophic damage to property and loss of human life. It is therefore important to appropriately plan for bushfires and ensure that all reasonable measures are in place to minimise the consequences of the risks posed by bushfires.

The Investigator College campuses have been assessed for bushfire risk. The risk assessment for each campus varies:

Victor Harbor Campus	High Bushfire Risk
Currency Creek Campus	Extreme Bushfire Risk

During the bushfire season, regular monitoring of the CFS website and official Government alerts will occur. The Principal and Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT) will make key decisions if bushfire danger occurs and will be responsible for communicating with staff and the community. Any significant threat that arises from a bushfire is a critical incident; critical incidents are handled by our CIMT. It is important to note that the College has a comprehensive internal bushfire management policy in place.

Investigator College is committed to providing a safe environment for all our students. It is our policy that:

- There is appropriate and adequate maintenance and preparation for the threat of bushfires throughout the year;
- Appropriate communications strategies are formulated to communicate with key stakeholders;
- Arrangements are in place to respond appropriately to emergency services directions and for orderly evacuation (if required);
- Days with a fire danger rating of **Moderate/High** will result in the school remaining open with active application of our bushfire alert procedures.

### DAYS OF EXTREME FIRE DANGER

The College will have key staff on stand-by on days of Extreme Fire Danger Rating, keeping track of conditions and any reports of fire activity. The **Currency Creek campus will be closed on days** deemed as **extreme fire risk**.

### DAYS OF CATASTROPHIC FIRE RISK

**All Investigator College campuses will be closed** on days deemed as 'Catastrophic' Fire Danger Rating by the Country Fire Service (CFS) for the Mount Lofty Ranges District. Days deemed catastrophic will also result in the cancellation of all school buses to/from the College.

Parents and staff will be **alerted of a school closure by a text message and email usually after 5.00pm** when the next day's Fire Ban ratings are officially announced by the CFS (usually between 4:30pm-5:00pm). This will include closing all OSHC services for the day advised.

If a Fire Ban rating changes during the course of a day when students are at school, they will be cared for at school for the remainder of the school day.

Students and staff are **not** to attend the College on **Catastrophic Fire Danger Days**.

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## BUSH FIRE THREAT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If a Bushfire starts in the area during the school day:

- The College staff will follow the comprehensive internal bushfire management policy.
- Students will not be dismissed from school until it is deemed safe by authorities. School buses will be cancelled if deemed necessary by authorities.
- Students will continue to be supervised at the School, no matter how late the time is. Students will only be released to a parent/caregiver or emergency contact person<sup>[1]</sup> as identified on a student's file at the College. **The onus for notifying changes of emergency contacts is on the parent(s)/caregivers. Please email [learn@investigator.sa.edu.au](mailto:learn@investigator.sa.edu.au) with the name and number of the person/s collecting your child during a bushfire emergency.**

Parents or an emergency contact must sign the child out from the appropriate staff member. A hard copy of this information, in alphabetical order, will be stored with WHS and will be taken to the Bushfire Refuge location if circumstances require an evacuation.

- Families will regularly be updated by SMS or email. **Families should not contact the School as telephone lines must be kept clear for emergency information updates.** It is important to note that telephones and internet communication may fail during a bushfire. The Principal will maintain contact with emergency services in this instance.
- The CFS (and published on the CFS website) recommends that it is not a good idea to access the school and expose yourself/emergency contact or your child to unnecessary risk by attempting to drive through active bushfire conditions.

*[1] Parents/caregivers are advised that one of the listed emergency contacts should be somebody who lives or works near the College and can collect their student/s quickly in a critical incident. If, at the time of a bushfire, these contacts are not available, please reply to a College SMS or email [learn@investigator.sa.edu.au](mailto:learn@investigator.sa.edu.au) to give permission for your child to be collected by someone else.*

### Communication

Where possible, important critical incident communication is made to families, students and staff either through our public facing website, social media, via direct email and/or text message. It is important to remember that telephones and internet communication may fail during a bushfire. The Principal will maintain contact with emergency services in this instance.

### Responding to emergency services directions and evacuation orders

Staff are trained in their specific roles and responsibilities in preparing for, monitoring and executing emergency bushfire procedures, including following directions from emergency services and the effective operation of emergency equipment.

### Policy Review

This Bushfire Response Plan has been approved by the Senior Leadership Team on 22 October 2025.

The next review date is October 2026.