



EAST MANJIMUP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Bushfire Zone Register

The Department of Education (the Department) is concerned to maximise the safety of its students and staff. East Manjimup Primary School has been added to the Bushfire Zone Register. Inclusion on this register means that the school may be required to invoke pre-emptive closure on a day for which a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating (FDR) has been declared for the Shire of Manjimup. A Catastrophic FDR means that if a fire starts, it is likely to be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving.

What does this mean for our school?

When given advance warning by Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) that a Catastrophic FDR has been forecast for a given day, the Deputy Director General, Schools may direct the pre-emptive closure of East Manjimup Primary School. If the school receives such a direction, you will be informed of the possible planned closure by a letter sent home with your child. Parents of students absent on the day this letter is sent home will be contacted by telephone, so please ensure the school has up to date contact details for you.

In the intervening period between the declaration of the pre-emptive closure and the day of planned closure, DFES will monitor weather patterns to keep the Department informed of any change to the forecast for the declared day. The final decision to pre-emptively close the school will be confirmed by the Department with the principal no later than 1.30 pm on the day before the declared day. If the forecast changes after that deadline, the closure will stand, regardless of improvements to the weather conditions later in the afternoon of the day before the declared day or overnight. The intention is to limit confusion or uncertainty for parents and to allow you ample time to make alternative child care arrangements.

Parents will be advised of the confirmation of closure, or its reversal, by a note sent home with your child on the day before the planned closure. Again, parents of students absent on this day will be contacted by telephone.

How will I know when the school is reopening?

It is anticipated that the school will only be required to close for a single day at a time, but this will depend on the weather. The school website will contain a notice to advise you of the current status of the school closure and when it is expected to reopen.

I ask that you monitor local media for current information about fire danger ratings and notification of schools reopening. Staying tuned to ABC Local Radio in your locality is advisable. You can also check with DFES on 1300 657 209 or www.dfes.wa.gov.au. Alternatively you can call Jeremy Hadlow 0458 574 793 or Andrew Grono at Regional Education Office 97910348. If any of the options listed above for finding out when to send your child back to school will prove problematic, please contact the school to arrange for us to phone you to advise you when the school will reopen.

Questions?

Please contact the school on 9771 1146 if you have any questions about planned closures during the bushfire season.

Jeremy Hadlow
PRINCIPAL