



Bushfire Closure Policy

Cockatoo Kindergarten will be

CLOSED on ALL “TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS”
for the Central Fire District of Victoria.



CLOSED on all days that are declared “CATASTROPHIC”

In addition, As of February 2024 Cardinia Shire Council has developed a plan that prioritises the safety of families, children and staff at all Council facilities.

All Kindergartens working out of a Council facility in a Bushfire Prone Area will follow the below action plan in line with Victoria's Bushfire Behaviour Index rating:

Fire Danger Rating	Bushfire Behaviour Index	Facility Status	Action Plan
Catastrophic	100+	Closed	On all Catastrophic days (100+), Council facilities in Bushfire Prone Areas will close entirely
Extreme	76-100	Closed	On all Extreme days (76-100), Council facilities in Bushfire Prone Areas will close entirely.
Extreme	50-75	Closed	On all Extreme rating days (50-75), Council facilities in Bushfire Prone Areas will close for kindergarten service provision.

This policy has been adopted while considering the following factors:

- The safety and protection of the children comes first and they should not be put in a potentially dangerous situation
- Our very close proximity to Wright's Forrest
- Our building has NO bushfire fighting equipment
- The building is NOT a fire refuge
- We have NO safe place to evacuate to in the event of a bushfire
- Cockatoo is rated as one of the most high risk bushfire areas in the Victoria

Notification of a closure

The Committee and staff at the kindergarten will notify families as soon as we have been advised by either DEED, CFA or Cardinia Shire Council that we will be closed. This notification will come via our Storypark App. Please ensure that when you receive a closure message that you respond ASAP

Bushfire Information

You can monitor the Fire Danger rating and Bushfire Behaviour Index here:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/forecasts/fire-danger-ratings.shtml>

Please note **Cardinia Shire is in the Central District.**

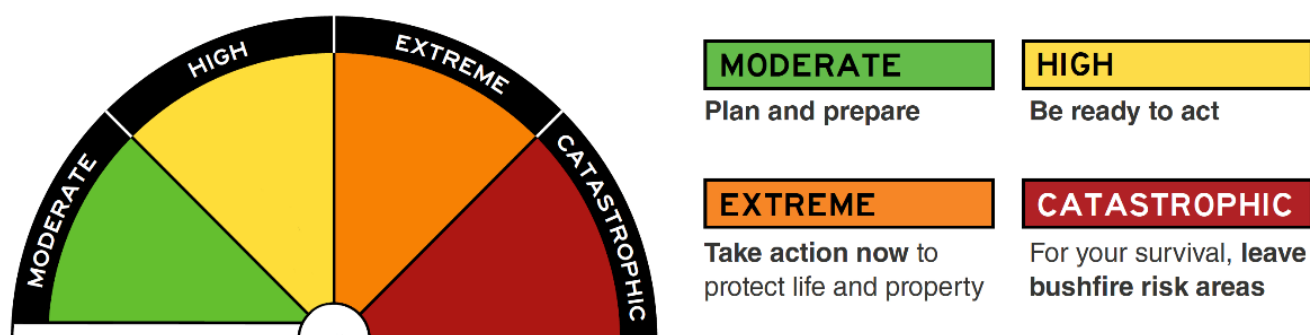
Now is a good time to develop, or review, your own **Bushfire Plan** and encourage those in your community to do the same.

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/your-bushfire-plan>

<https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/>

<https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe/what-to-do-in-an-emergency>



Cockatoo Kindergarten Staff and Committee
February 2024