



18th January 2016

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DAYS OF **EXTREME & CODE RED** FIRE DANGER

Dear Families,

In the interest of the safety of our students, families and staff, The Patch School will:

- be applying to the Department of Education & Training (DET) for permission to close on days where the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme and
- definitely close on days when the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, as per DET policy

****As our school is on DET's Bushfire At-Risk register, The Patch School WILL BE CLOSED on Code Red days****

Where possible, when a Code Red day is declared, you will be notified between 4-6 days beforehand BUT it may be as little as 3 days. Once confirmed (no later than 1pm the day before the anticipated closure), regardless of any late change in the expected weather, the school **will be closed and this will not change**.

Due to the elevated bushfire risk, **there will be no staff at school on these days**. Updates on [school closures](#) can be found on the DET Emergency Management web page. [Click here](#) for more information on Code Red days via the DET website.

****On days of Extreme Fire Danger, The Patch School will apply to DET for permission to close ****

As per Code Red days, if closure is approved, **there will again be no staff at school**. If this occurs, families will be notified using several communication methods (no later than 1pm the day before the anticipated closure) so please be aware you may receive the same information more than once. This is because we must be *absolutely sure* everyone is aware of this situation.

Information about the current and expected Fire Danger Ratings can be found in weather forecasts on daily news programs, published on websites and in newspapers, broadcast on radio, on the [CFA website](#) and through CFA's *Fire Ready* app.

Please note that it is the responsibility of every family to:

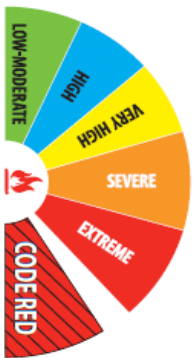
- 1. know where to find and understand Fire Danger Rating information**
- 2. understand The Patch School's procedure for days of EXTREME fire danger and CODE RED fire danger**
- 3. sign the attached form acknowledging your acceptance of these responsibilities and return it to the school**

For your convenience, a copy of this letter has been posted on the Emergency Management page of the school website, where you will find the hyperlinks enabled.

Thank you for your support and co-operation with this important safety matter.

Yours sincerely,

Debra Herrmann
Principal



Stay aware of the Fire Danger Rating and know what to do.

The Fire Danger Rating predicts how a fire would behave if one started, including how difficult it would be to put out. The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions. The rating is your trigger to act, so to stay safe you need to stay aware of the Fire Danger Rating in your district. During the fire season, the Fire Danger Rating will feature in weather forecasts and be broadcast on radio and TV and appear in some newspapers. It can also be found on the websites of the CFA, Department of Sustainability and Environment and Bureau of Meteorology or by calling the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on **1800 240 667**

CODE RED	<p>WHAT DOES IT MEAN?</p> <p>These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire. Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions. The safest place to be is away from high risk bushfire areas.</p>	<p>WHAT SHOULD I DO?</p> <p>Leaving high risk bushfire areas the night before or early in the day is your safest option – do not wait and see. Avoid forested areas, thick bush or long, dry grass. Know your trigger – make a decision about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – when you will leave – where you will go – how you will get there – when you will return – what you will do if you cannot leave
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EXTREME	<p>Expect extremely hot, dry and windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. Spot fires will start, move quickly and come from many directions. Homes that are situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, that are well prepared and actively defended, may provide safety. You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider staying with your property only if you are prepared to the highest level. This means your home needs to be situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, you are well prepared and you can actively defend your home if a fire starts. • If you are not prepared to the highest level, leaving high risk bushfire areas early in the day is your safest option. • Be aware of local conditions and seek information by listening to ABC Local Radio, commercial radio stations or Sky News TV, go to cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667
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SEVERE	<p>Expect hot, dry and possibly windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable. Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety. You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – check your bushfire survival plan. • If you are not prepared, leaving bushfire prone areas early in the day is your safest option. • Be aware of local conditions and seek information by listening to ABC Local Radio, commercial radio stations or Sky News TV, go to cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667
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VERY HIGH	<p>If a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled in these conditions and homes can provide safety. Be aware of how fires can start and minimise the risk. Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe – check to see if permits apply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your bushfire survival plan • Monitor conditions • Action may be needed • Leave if necessary
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HIGH	<p>Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe – check to see if permits apply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your bushfire survival plan • Monitor conditions • Action may be needed • Leave if necessary
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LOW-MODERATE	<p>Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe – check to see if permits apply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your bushfire survival plan • Monitor conditions • Action may be needed • Leave if necessary
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For more information contact: **1800 240 667** www.cfa.vic.gov.au



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.
Fire Ready SAFELY COMMUNAL
 Victoria



18th January 2016

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROCEDURES ON DAYS OF
EXTREME & CODE RED FIRE DANGER**

I/we acknowledge the receipt of information regarding The Patch School's procedures for days of Extreme and Code Red fire danger.

I/we know where to find fire danger rating information and understand their meanings.

I/we understand that The Patch School will **close on Code Red fire danger days** and apply to the Department of Education & Training for **pre-emptive closure on days of Extreme fire danger**.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date _____

Child's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Child's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Child's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Child's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Please return this form to school on the first day back.

Thank you.