



CRESWICK NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL **Closure Procedures for the 2009/10 Bushfire season**

The first principle in the event of a bushfire is the safety of all students and staff.

Fire Danger Ratings

Victoria has adopted the new nationally agreed Fire Danger Rating scale to help communities understand information about fire danger. (attached) This new scale recognises the significant increase in severe bushfire conditions over the past decade and the subsequent greater level of danger to the community; as experienced by Victorians on Saturday 7 February, 2009.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) have worked extensively with emergency agencies to identify schools in high fire risk areas. A set procedure for high fire danger days has been developed in conjunction with all agencies. The procedure for **all** Victorian Government schools is as follows: -

- All Government schools and children's services that have been identified as being at a high fire risk will close on a day declared a Code Red (Catastrophic) Fire Danger Rating Day. Bus routes and offsite activities such as excursions, school camps and outdoor activities will also be cancelled or changed.
- Where possible, DEECD will provide up to 3 days notice of a planned closure of a school or children's service, as well as information about cancellation or changes to bus transport routes.
- Schools and children's services should however expect that, in some instances, fewer than 3 days notice may be provided.
- The final decision to close a facility will be confirmed no later than 12noon the day before the planned closure.
- Once the decision to close a school or children's service centre is made, this will not change – regardless of changes in the weather forecast – this will help limit confusion and provide time for parents to make alternative care arrangements for their children. All closures will be listed on the DEECD website - www.education.vic.gov.au

Creswick North Primary School has been declared a school as being at high fire risk. If at any point this rating changes, School Council and all families will be informed in writing by the Principal.

In the event of Bushfire alert in our area, our school will be instructed by the Regional Director, as to whether we close. In these circumstances, as much advance notice as possible will be given to all families.

Please note that all decisions relating to school closure will be made by the Regional Director. These decisions are not made at an individual school level.

Scott Phillips
Principal

Fire Danger Rating (FDR)

CODE RED (Catastrophic):	If you live in a bushfire prone area the safest option is to leave the night before, or early in the morning.
EXTREME:	The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared, well constructed and you can actively defend it.
SEVERE:	The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.
VERY HIGH:	If you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave, the safest option is to leave at the beginning of a day.
HIGH:	Check your Bushfire Survival Plan
LOW-MODERATE:	Check your Bushfire Survival Plan