



## **BRISBANIA BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL & VACATION CARE CENTRE INC**

### **MANGEMENT**

**Title: BUSH FIRE**

**Status: Current**

**Date of Origin: February 2020**

**Policy No: P38**

**Last Reviewed: February 2022**

### **BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY POLICY AIM:**

Brisbania Before & After School & Vacation Care Centre is committed to:

- Providing a safe environment for all children in care with the service in the event of a bushfire emergency.
- Fulfilling our duty of care to the children in care.
- Responding in a responsible manner to the threat of bushfires in our community. The primary responsibility of the educator is to ensure the evacuation of children in care to a safe place at the earliest opportunity when a bushfire emergency is likely.

### **RATIONALE:**

In New South Wales we face the very real possibility of bushfire impacting upon our service and/or our families. While there are elements of bushfire that you cannot control, like the weather, there is a wide range of planning and preparation activities that you can undertake which will dramatically increase the chances of you, the children in care, your family members and your home surviving in the event of a bushfire.

### **POLICY:**

***Brisbania Before & After School Care & Vacation Care Centre Educators will Follow Brisbane Public School Site Management Plan.***

Educators located in designated bushfire zones must have a documented bushfire emergency plan that includes the location of a safe evacuation place. (Bushfire Emergency Plan Brisbane Public School)

- Educators operating a service in a designated bush fire zone should have an evacuation pack, which could include a basic first aid kit, children's necessities, such as water, blankets, torch, Centre mobile phone with access to enrolment information, medications and emergency action plans for children with asthma, allergies or other applicable medical conditions.

### **AUSTRALIAN FIRE DANGER RATINGS**

The Australian Fire Danger Rating (AFDRS) provides an indication of the possible consequences of a fire. This rating is standardised across all Australian states and territories. The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions. The AFDRS uses four tiers of fire danger from Moderate to Catastrophic. The AFDRS are maintained and updated by emergency services in each state or territory.



The FDR is an early indicator of potential danger and should act as a trigger for action.

The FDR is determined by the Fire Danger Index (FDI).

The FDI is a combination of air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought.

an FDI in excess of 100 (Catastrophic) means that fire will burn so fast and so hot that it will likely be uncontrollable.

You can find out the fire danger rating in your area by:

- Checking the RFS or NSW RFS App. Or websites at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)
- Ringing the RFS Information Line on 1800 679 737
- Monitoring weather reports on the radio, TV and in newspapers
- Contacting your local fire station. Bushfire Preparation (If you live in a Bushfire Zone)
- Keep a radio in the care area
- Always have an up to date Bushfire Survival Plan
- Review and rehearse your Bushfire Survival Plan regularly.
- Have a contingency plan and know the location of a local safe place.

Child care services located in bushfire zones should close when the fire danger rating is Extreme, and must close when Brisbane Public School Site is closed.

## **EVACUATION**

Educators can download the free app, Fires Near Me, to stay alerted about current fire risks.

Should the educator be advised by police or RFS officers that evacuation is necessary, the educator should contact parents immediately to collect their children and the educator should notify the coordination unit once children have been collected.

If parents cannot be contacted take the children to a safe place as per your emergency plan.

A Bushfire Household Assessment Tool can be found at <http://bfhat.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

### **Key Contact Details**

Emergency fire call: 000

Bushfire information: 1800 679 737

Road closures: 132 701

State Disaster Recovery Centre: 02 8855 5111 or 1800 018 444

[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)



Relevant Legislation: Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:

- Part 4.2, Division 5 - Emergencies and communication
  - Part 4.7, Division 2 - Policies and procedures
  - Part 4.7, Division 3, Sub-division 1 - Display and reporting of prescribed information
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010;

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