

2020–21 Bushfire Season



Update for Principals and Compliance & Risk Support Officers within the Ballarat Diocese

Main Points

- As the 2021 school year begins, schools are reminded to review and update their Emergency Management Plans (EMP) and to confirm that all contact information is current.
- The EMP must be reviewed twice annually and immediately after any significant incident.
- Principals of schools on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and the Grass Fire At-Risk Register (GARR) must inform students, staff and parents about any specific bushfire preparedness arrangements and the actions that will be taken by the school (e.g. that the school will be closed on a code red day and that bus routes will also be impacted).
- Additional information and resources can be found on the CEVN website under Emergency-Management.
- Schools attending summer camps will need to consider access to and from the camp and ensure that appropriate risk management strategies have been taken into account (e.g. a review of the camp's EMP and procedures).
- It is recommended that supervising teachers are up-to-date with any information regarding local emergencies published on the Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) website or mobile app.
- A list of accredited campsites is available on:
 - Australian Camps Association website
 - The National Accommodation Recreation Tourism Accreditation (NARTA) website.
- School excursions, camps and other activities conducted outside the school must be entered into the Student Activity Locator (SAL) database available on the CEVN website at least three weeks prior to the event.

Actions Required

- Principals are required to:
 - ensure that the school's EMP is up-to-date, including emergency contact details now that new staff may have come on-board
 - email a copy of the school's updated current EMP to emergencymanagement@ceob.edu.au **only, by Tuesday 9 February.**
 - ensure that the SAL is completed prior to any approved camp, excursion or activity conducted outside the school.
- If the school is listed on the BARR or GARR, principals will need to ensure that families understand any code red day arrangements.

CLICK - [Bushfire Preparedness Closure Procedures](#)

Additional Information

- More information on warnings is available on the websites listed below:
 - Government Emergency website
<http://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond>
 - Country Fire Authority (CFA)
www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions
 - State Emergency Service (SES)
www.ses.vic.gov.au/warnings
 - The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)
www.bom.gov.au/vic/warnings
 - The emergency broadcaster is:
ABC local radio: www.abc.net.au/melbourne/emergencies
 - Modifications to programs should be considered in response to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Heat Health Alerts.

Contact/Enquiries

- For all emergencies call Triple Zero (000).
- For all enquiries, please contact Simon O'Brien, Compliance & Risk Advisor on 5337 7136 or emergencymanagement@ceob.edu.au.

Tom Sexton

Executive Director

Catholic Education Ballarat