BRIDGEWATER KINDERGARTEN IS CLASSIFIED AS A SAFE REFUGE FOR CHILDREN AND STAFF IN THE EVENT OF A BUSHFIRE.

Procedures for staff and students is well documented and practice fire drills for both internal and external fires are held at the kindy on a regular basis.

Any kindy excursions planned for high-risk days will be cancelled.

The kindy has three ALERT LEVELS to identify the process required for different levels of risk.

**LEVEL 1 ALERT:**
This alert is declared on days of extreme fire danger as identified through ABC AM 891 radio. Parents may choose to keep children home on these identified days - in line with their family Fire Safety Procedures. Please advise the kindy if this is your decision. All staff are notified when a **LEVEL 1 ALERT** has been declared.

**LEVEL 2 ALERT:**
This alert is declared in response to a BUSHFIRE INFORMATION MESSAGE issued by the Police and Emergency Services advising of a potential threat to public safety by a bushfire in our ‘Area of Concern’. The Kindy's ‘Area of Concern’ includes both the kindy grounds and the surrounding district from which our kindy draws students - i.e. the area in which a fire represents a potential danger to any of our students.

When kindy declares a **LEVEL 2 ALERT** the Director will notify staff who will respond using kindy procedures. Parents may choose to collect their children but must sign their child out.

**LEVEL 3 ALERT:**
This alert comes into operation when a BUSHFIRE WARNING MESSAGE is given to advise that a bushfire in the district presents a direct threat to the kindy grounds and building. All students and staff will remain in the kindy Bushfire Refuge Building. Students will remain in the Bushfire Refuge Building until collected by a parent or nominated emergency contact. A parent may further delegate this responsibility in writing on the day. Staff will remain until all students have been collected.

Parents need to make a decision whether to keep their children home or pick them up from school well before **LEVEL 3 ALERT** is reached.

**BUSHFIRE INFORMATION MESSAGES and BUSHFIRE WARNING MESSAGES** will be issued via SMS and e-mail.

At all levels of alert, the Director is responsible for decision-making regarding the safety and movement of students and staff, unless Police and Emergency Services intervenes directly or through an authorised officer, whose authority to act has been established beyond reasonable doubt.

**CATASTROPHIC DAY INFORMATION ON BACK OF THIS PAGE**
Please note: Bridgewater Kindergarten will be closed on ‘Catastrophic Days’

FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

Bridgewater Kindergarten is rated as an ‘EXTREME FIRE RISK SCHOOL’
Bridgewater Kindergarten, will be CLOSED on days when the
FIRE DANGER INDEX in the Mt. Lofty district is CATASTROPHIC = CODE RED

- **Advanced** warning may be given to schools 48 hours before a CATASTROPHIC day.
- **Confirmation** of a CATASTROPHIC day will only occur after 4pm the day before, once it has been confirmed by the CFS.
- Staff will not be on site on a CATASTROPHIC day.

Parents will be able to confirm school closure on CATASTROPHIC days by:
1. Text message from Bridgewater Kindergarten to parent mobiles
2. Hotline 1800 000 279 which will operate the day before and through-out school closures.
3. ABC 891 radio and ABC television.
5. Sign displayed out the front of the kindergarten.

**FAMILY BUSHFIRE ACTION PLANS** are vital. Part of this plan needs to address what action will be taken by the family when the child’s school is closed.

**THIS NEEDS TO BE DECIDED NOW.** You need to protect your family.

Up to date information is available from [www.bushfirereadyschools.sa.gov.au](http://www.bushfirereadyschools.sa.gov.au)

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It is **IMPERATIVE** that you ensure Bridgewater Kindergarten has your up-to-date contact numbers.