

What DECYP does for Bushfire & Heatwaves

Last updated: 26 October 2023

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Bushfire is rated as [Tasmania's No. 1 natural hazard \(PDF, 1.4MB\)](#), with significant incidents in recent years including 2013, 2016, and 2019.
2. For bushfires and heatwaves, our Department has a lead role for information sharing across our sites and teams, and with the Non-Government school sector.

OUR AIM

We work collaboratively with our stakeholders so people at our sites can be safe from bushfires or heatwaves.

OUR ACTIONS

Before

- We annually update our procedures and guides in line with national and State advice
- We engage with regional emergency committees, and
- We make sure we have clear lines of communication with Non-Government schools and the Education & Care Unit for emergencies.

During

- We check weather forecasts, and send internal updates when bushfires start, or heatwaves are forecast
- We share information and make changes for safety in advance if needed (e.g. temporary closure)
- We communicate with managers at affected sites to support their decision-making and communications with various site stakeholders.

After

- We resume our planned activities as soon as it is safe to do so
- We assess our sites for damage, and we arrange alternate sites if needed
- We support our staff and learners if they are emergency-affected.

DECISION THRESHOLDS

We make decisions for safety, when:

- **Fire Weather:** [Fire Danger Rating forecasts](#) of 'Extreme'
- **Heatwave:** When forecasts reach 'Severe' in the extreme heat range, and the Department of Health provides supporting advice

- **Active Bushfires:** We actively monitor bushfires and follow advice from the Tasmania Fire Service.

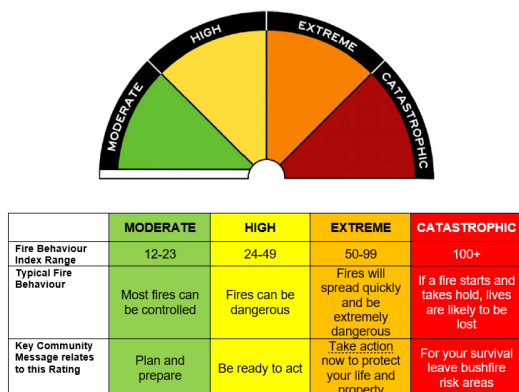


Image:

[Australian Fire Danger Rating System](#)

CHANGES - HOW TO KNOW

When planned activities are going to be changed, the manager for the site lets people know through the usual communication channels e.g. emails, Facebook, webpages.

If one of our sites needs to close because of bushfire or heatwave risk, advice is usually provided the day before, and is published on the [DECYP Alerts](#) page.

MORE INFORMATION?

[What Departmental sites are currently closed?](#) (DECYP Alerts)

[All Incidents including Bushfires](#) (TasALERT)

[List of affected roads](#) (Tasmania Police – Community Alerts)

[Current Public Health Alerts](#) (Dept. of Health)

[Fire Danger Rating Forecasts](#) (TFS)

[Bushfire & Heatwave Staff, Parents & Carers Information page](#) (DECYP)

Updates will be provided regularly until the site re-opens.

HOW TO BE READY

- 1 Make an emergency plan with your household so everyone knows what they should do.

Recommended resources are:

[TFS 5 Minute Bushfire Plan](#) or [SES Home Emergency Plan](#)

- 2 Know how your DECYP site will provide updates
- 3 Update your phone contacts and web 'Favourites' with emergency details.

