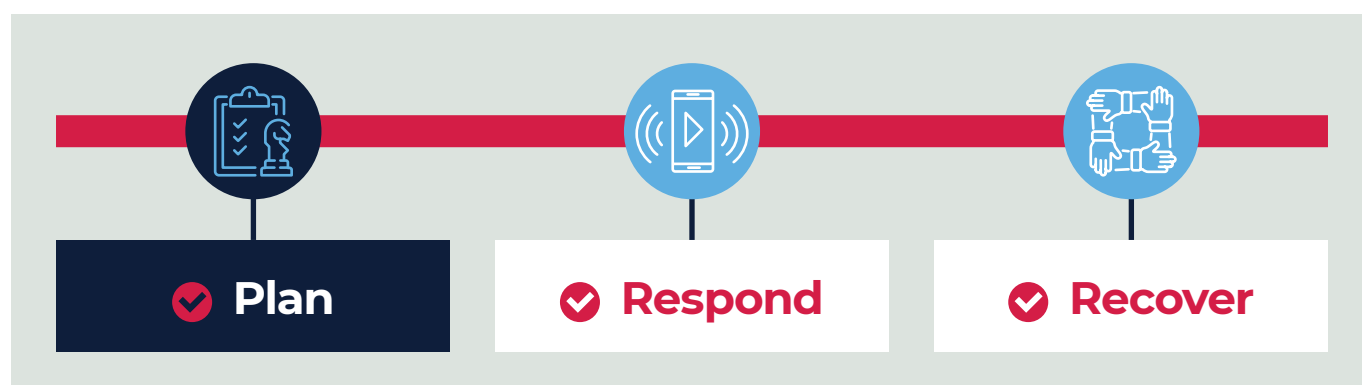




## NSW Department of Education

# Bushfire Season Ready



**Ensuring the best outcomes for our staff and students starts with a robust Emergency Management Plan.**

In preparation for each bushfire season, it is important that schools review and update their plan and response protocols in the event of local bushfire activity or Fire Danger Ratings.

Bushfire Alert Levels are issued by the NSW RFS for bushfire activity on the 'Fires Near Me' app and the RFS website.

## Follow 4 key steps to get your school ready for the bushfire season:

### Know your risk

Your school will be identified within one of the following three risk classification categories:

- **Category 1** – in a Bushfire Prone Area and will need to proactively temporarily cease operations during a catastrophic fire danger rating
- **Category 2** – in a Bushfire Prone Area
- **Category 3** – not in a Bushfire Prone Area but may be impacted by grass fires, smoke or road closure

1

## Plan now for what you'll do

All schools in bushfire prone areas must have a bushfire response within their Emergency Management Plan.

All schools must complete the '[Prepare your school for bushfire season - checklist](#)' to identify key actions to take when completing a review of their school Emergency Management Plan.

An Emergency Management Plan must consider:

- Measures your school will undertake before and during the bushfire season, such as the maintenance of facilities and vegetation.
- Response actions your school will take when faced with local bushfire activity, including evacuation or shelter in place locations.
- Recovery measures to support the return of normal school services.

It is important that **all schools** take steps to minimise exposure to bushfire smoke where possible. Considerations can include changing planned activities to indoors and the use of fans rather than air conditioning. For more advice and support on air quality, please access the '[air quality considerations for schools during bushfire](#)' fact sheet or visit the [NSW Health website](#).

**Note:** Shelter in place locations should only be used as a last resort. They are to be used when all other options listed in your emergency management plan cannot be actioned safely and should be under the guidance of emergency services advice.

2

## Undertake training

Complete the '[preparing and responding to bushfire](#)' e-learning module to access key information to assist in your planning and response for the bushfire season.

Access this module through your [e-Safety](#) account.

3

## Be aware and monitor the situation

Stay up to date during periods of increased fire danger and when there is local bushfire activity by monitoring the following:



In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)  
Call the Incident Report and Support Hotline 1800 811 523 (Option 1)



'Fires Near Me' Free Smartphone App



Local radio, TV, newspaper, local ABC/emergency broadcaster



Fire Danger Ratings at [rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr)  
Fire Activity and Alert Levels at [rfs.nsw.gov.au](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
[Livetraffic.com](https://www.livetraffic.com)



Secured Communications will be used to notify you of alerts and updates



[facebook.com/nswrfs](https://facebook.com/nswrfs)  
[twitter.com/nswrfs](https://twitter.com/nswrfs)

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Education

Call **1800 811 523** to speak with your local Work Health and Safety Advisor for support and advice.