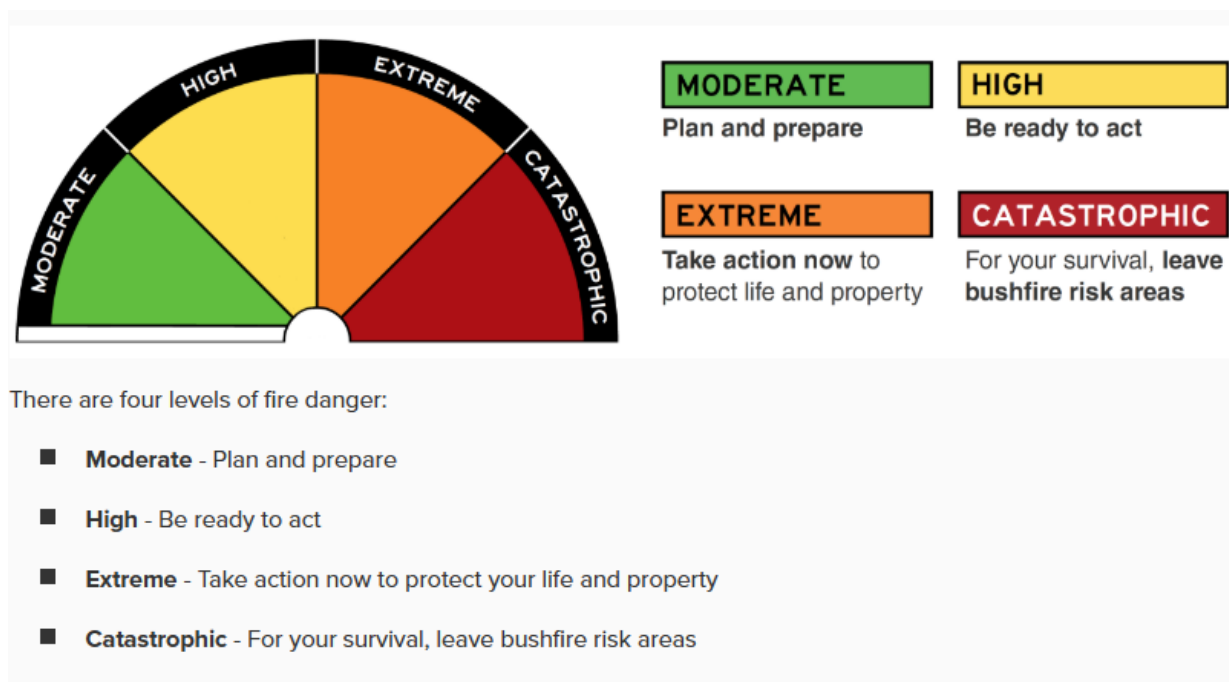


Emergency School Closure Arrangements for Catastrophic Days

As a school on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR), St Patrick's is required to document their procedures for pre-emptive closure of the school in response to a declaration of a Catastrophic FDR in their Bureau of Meteorology District.

Summary

- All registered schools, as a component of their registration, must comply with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) Guidelines on Bushfire Preparedness.
- Schools must ensure they understand their bushfire and grassfire hazard exposure, their risk and the actions that they need to take for their emergency management planning, preparedness, ongoing situational awareness and response.
- Schools on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and assessed to be at the greatest risk of fire need to understand the corresponding pre-emptive actions that are required on days of elevated fire danger (High or Extreme fire danger rating (FDR) based on risk categorisation) in their local government area.
- All schools on the BARR, and schools considered at risk of bushfire or grassfire (Category 4 (previously GARR)), must close on all days forecasted by the Bureau of Meteorology to be Catastrophic FDR in their fire weather district.
- Schools must cancel all bus routes which travel through fire weather districts that are forecasted to be Catastrophic FDR.
- In the event of exposure to an immediate bushfire or grassfire threat, all school principals and approved providers/facility managers (or their delegates) have the authority to enact their Emergency Management Plan (EMP).



St Patrick's is in the WIMMERA Fire Weather District and is a CATEGORY 4 School

All schools in Categories 0 to 4 must close on days forecasted as **Catastrophic FDR** in their fire weather district. Schools may begin to prepare for the possibility of pre-emptive closure up to 4 days before the forecasted **Catastrophic FDR** day as informed by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecast.

DOBCEL will advise schools of the potential for a **Catastrophic FDR** as information becomes available, however the pre-emptive closure will be confirmed by 1 pm the day prior to Catastrophic FDR day.