



Written By

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Introduction

The Preschool will be closed for fire ratings of Extreme and Catastrophic and in the event of dangerous fire conditions

Our bushfire plan is to be proactive and leave early. Bermagui Preschool has developed a Bushfire Emergency Plan in consultation with the local Rural Fire Service, NSW Department of Education and local early childhood services. The Preschool will be closed if advised by Bega Fire Control, Police or other Emergency Services and/or at the discretion of the Nominated Supervisor or Responsible Person. The preschool will be closed if there is fire activity in the area which could impact upon the preschool.

Strategies

The Responsible Person will

- Nominate a staff member to monitor and check the NSW RFS FIRES NEAR ME app, monitor local radio.
- Consult with the RFS for advice.
 - Bega Fire Control Centre: 6494 7400
 - NSW Rural Fire Service website: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
 - NSW RFS FIRES NEAR ME app for information concerning local fire risk

There are three levels of Bush Fire Alerts:



Advice

A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.



Watch And Act

There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.



Emergency Warning

An Emergency Warning is the highest level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

If Bermagui area has a **Watch and Act** Bushfire Alert, please keep children at home as Bermagui Preschool will be closed. If there is a day of **Severe Fire Danger** and/or **dangerous fire conditions** in the local area surrounding Bermagui you will need to:

- Consider not sending your child to Preschool
- Monitor local radio, NSW RFS FIRES NEAR ME app and phone alerts
- Have a plan in place to collect your child immediately, if necessary
- Leave contact numbers where you can be reached at all times during the day

The following triggers mean that you will be called and asked to **immediately** collect your child:

- If there is an **Active Fire** in the local area surrounding Bermagui Preschool
- If the **Watch and Act** level is activated

If a bushfire starts unexpectedly Bermagui Preschool will follow the instructions of the local emergency services, implement the bush fire emergency plan and either:

1. Remain in the building
 - Inform 000 of decision to stay
 - Implement Lock Down Procedure
 - Place wet towels under doors
 - Monitor conditions and actively seek information from RFS website and local radio.
2. Evacuate the building
 - Ensure all children are accounted for
 - Ring 000 and Bega Fire Control to provide evacuation location

Assembly Point 1: Bungaree Sandpit (Gate to Ambulance Station)

Assembly Point 2: Wooden Seat (Community Centre Car Park)

Assembly Point 3: Location as advised by RFS

During the year, Preschool staff will regularly involve all children and staff in a practice of the Preschool's emergency procedures. This may involve everyone practicing a 'lockdown' procedure or evacuating the premises.

On rare occasions it may be necessary for the Preschool staff to not only evacuate children from the Preschool, but also from the local area. In these situations it may be necessary for Preschool staff to transport children in their own cars to a safe area (this may be done under the direction, or with the support of the State Emergency Services - SES). If such a situation occurs the Preschool will make every effort to contact you and let you know where to meet your child.

Resources & References

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
NSW Rural Fire Service

Relevant Documentation

Links to other policies
4.16 Emergency Procedures (Evacuation & Lockdown)

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