



WANGGANGARLI MIRNUMAYALANGU

Roebourne District High School

31 August 2018

BUSH FIRE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Bushfire Zone Register

The Department of Education (the Department) is committed to maximising the safety of its students and staff. Roebourne District High School has been added to the Bushfire Zone Register. Inclusion on this register means that the school may be required to invoke a pre-emptive closure on a day for which a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating (FDR) has been declared for the City of Karratha for Roebourne. A Catastrophic FDR means that if a fire starts, it is likely to be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving.

What does this mean for our school?

When given advance warning by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) that a Catastrophic FDR has been forecast for a given day, the Deputy Director General, Schools may direct the pre-emptive closure of Roebourne District High School. If the school receives such a directive, you will be informed of the possible planned closure by a SMS or letter sent home with your child. Parents of students absent on the day this SMS or letter is sent home will be contacted by telephone, so please ensure the school has up to date contact details for you. In the intervening period between the declaration of the pre-emptive closure and the day of planned closure, DFES will keep the Department informed of any change to the FDR forecast for the declared day. The final decision to pre-emptively close the school will be confirmed with the principal no later than 4.30pm on the day before the planned closure. If the forecast changes after that deadline, the closure will stand, regardless of improvements to the weather conditions later in the afternoon of the day before the planned closure or overnight. The intention is to limit confusion or uncertainty for parents and to allow you ample time to make alternative child care arrangements.

Parents will be advised of the confirmation of closure, or its reversal, by a note sent home with your child on the day before the planned closure. Again, parents of students absent on this day will be contacted by telephone.

How will I know when the school is reopening?

It is anticipated that the school will typically only be required to close for a single day at a time, however this will depend on the weather. You will receive an SMS to advise you whether the school will reopen the day after the planned closure, or whether it will remain closed. The school website will contain a notice to advise you of the current status of the school closure and when it is expected to reopen.

I ask that you monitor local media for current information about fire danger ratings and notification of schools reopening. Staying tuned to ABC Local Radio in your locality is advisable. You can also check with DFES on 13 DFES (13 33 37) or www.dfes.wa.gov.au and Emergency WA website: www.emergency.wa.gov.au. Alternatively you can call me on 0491 228 589 or Pilbara Regional Education Office on 9185 0111. If any of the options listed above for finding out when to send your child back to school are problematic, please contact the principal to arrange for us to phone you to advise you when the school will reopen.

Questions?

Please contact the school on 08 9182 1244 if you have any questions about planned closures during the bushfire season.

Sharon Tawhiti
Principal (Acting)