UPPER YARRA
SECONDARY COLLEGE
www.uysc.vic.edu.au

Bushfire Season - Catastrophic Bushfire Days

Some schools need to close pre-emptively on catastrophic bushfire days. As Upper Yarra Secondary College is located in a high-risk bushfire zone, it is listed on the *Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR)* and can be subject to Catastrophic closures.

The College's pre-emptive closure action plan during the bushfire season.

Following the issue of a Catastrophic warning by the CFA, parents are provided with up to three days' notice of a planned closure. Parents are contacted directly via Compass or letter sent home with their child, and an SMS message with advice on planned closures. The decision to close will be confirmed by 12 noon the day before the planned closure.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This avoids confusion and helps families plan alternative care arrangements.

- Staff will not be onsite when the College is closed due to the risk of bushfire.
- Camps will be cancelled if the area where the camp is taking place is at risk.
- School buses will not operate in the event of a school closure due to a Catastrophic forecast.

In the event of a major fire that threatens public safety, the emergency services may close roads or areas, thereby preventing students and cars from entering. Students and buses will remain where they are until it is safe to travel, in which case students would remain supervised at the school until collected by parents/carers or alternative arrangements have been made.

On Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan, and children should never be left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

The safest option when a Code Red day is declared, may be to leave the night before, or early in the morning of the Code Red day.

VicEmergency app

CFA's Your Guide to Survival

CFA's Fire Ready Kit