



Bushfire **'CODE RED'** Procedure

'Code Red' Definition:

A 'Code Red' is the highest bushfire warning level by the Victorian Emergency Management Commissioner, which is declared when a region (regions or the whole state) experiences a combination of high temperatures, high winds and/or low humidity, and it is expected that any bush or grass fires that may occur would be uncontrollable. These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire. Homes and other buildings are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions. The safest place to be is away from high-risk bushfire areas.

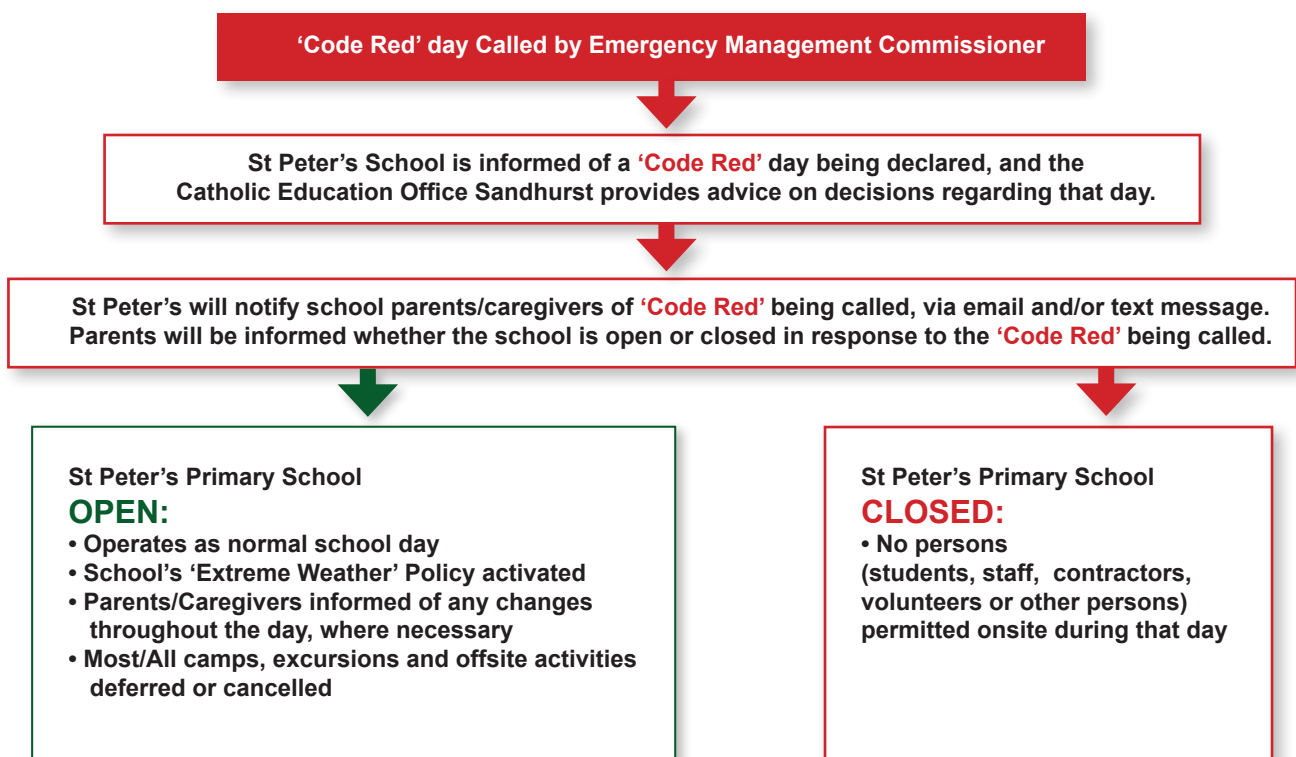
(More information can be found at: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/about-fire-danger-ratings>).

It is anticipated such a declaration would normally be made during the morning prior to the Code Red day, however this may not be possible in all circumstances. St Peter's School will seek to respond to any declaration as quickly as possible.

All schools, kindergartens and licensed child care centres that have been identified as being at high fire risk and on the Victorian 'Bushfire At-Risk Register' (BARR) are required to close on days declared Code Red. Schools and services not on the BARR will remain open, unless directly threatened by fire or another emergency:

- St Peter's School is not currently registered on the BARR, so will typically remain open on days when a 'Code Red' is called.
- On a Code Red day, all planned school excursions, camps and outdoors activities will be reviewed and steps taken to minimise the risk of harm to students and staff. It is anticipated most or all of these will be postponed or cancelled.
- Parents/Caregivers of St Peter's School who are concerned about the safety and/or wellbeing of their child/children on a 'Code Red' day can elect to keep their child/children away from school. If you elect to keep your child/children away from school, please use the normal absentee process to notify the school.
- It is possible in some circumstances that a decision is made, in conjunction with the Catholic Education Office Sandhurst, to close St Peter's School. If and when this occurs, the school will be closed for that day, is confirmed the day prior, this decision will not change, regardless of the actual conditions or any changes in the weather forecast.

St Peter's Primary School **'CODE RED'** Procedure:



Resources:

- https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/documents/20143/80821/FINAL_EMV_Code_Red_FAQs_General_FAQs.pdf/b1f467dc-50e7-be63-da51-7d0e3362c059
- <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/home>
- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/bushfirerisk.aspx?Redirect=1>