

Policy – Bushfire and Grassfire

Policy Information

Policy Number:	HAL-CSW-12
Current Version:	1.1
Policy Category:	CSW (Care, Safety and Wellbeing)
Scope:	School Programs
PAL Link:	https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/bushfire-and-grassfire-preparedness/policy

Revision History & Ratification

This policy needs to be reviewed by College Council **annually or as required and** ratified at the College Council meetings when **changes are necessary**. This policy will be published on the school's website and will be distributed to staff via Compass.

Revision Date:	Council Ratification Date:	Summary of Changes	Prepared/Approved By:
12/08/2020	19/10/2020	Policy Creation	Gregory McMahon
08/11/2021 V1.1	Approved by College Council Nov 2021	Update and checked against the Policy and Advisory Library (PAL)	Mike Kavanagh

1. Summary

This policy outlines actions schools and early childhood services must take in relation to bushfire and grassfire risk.

As a registered school, and as a component of our registration, Hallam Secondary College 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.

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Policy Owner: Mike Kavanagh

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Details

The Department's Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness policy is informed by expert advice from the emergency sector, including the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Schools and early childhood services around Victoria are at varying risk from bushfire and grassfire:

- Every school and facility should consider if they are located near bushland or grassland, placing it at increased risk of bushfires or grassfires. Information and resources are available from the [Country Fire Authority](#).
- All registered schools, as a component of their registration, must comply with the VRQA's [Guidelines on Bushfire Preparedness](#) (VRQA Guidelines).
- In addition, the Department maintains a register of the schools and early childhood services most at risk of bushfire — the BARR. *Hallam Secondary College do not appear on this list*. The Department also maintains a list of schools most at risk of grassfire. *Hallam Secondary College do not appear on this list*.

In the event of exposure to an immediate bushfire or grassfire threat, all school principals or facility managers (or their delegates) have the authority to enact the school or facility's EMP.

Related policies

Hallam Secondary College is committed to ensuring all staff are provided with sufficient information on the departments policies and procedures.

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/bushfire-and-grassfire-preparedness/policy>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/excursions/policy>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/emergency-critical-incident-management-planning/policy>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-maintenance-plans-rfe/policy>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/buildings-grounds-maintenance/policy>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/leave-bushfire-flood-or-other-severe-weather-event/overview>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/shelter-place-buildings/policy>

Relevant legislation

Hallam Secondary College is committed to ensuring all staff are provided with sufficient information on the departments policies and procedures.

Emergency Management Act 1986

http://www7.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/legis/vic/consol_act/ema1986190/

Emergency Management Act 2013

http://www7.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/legis/vic/consol_act/ema1986190/

Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017

<https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/statutory-rules/education-and-training-reform-regulations-2017/006>

2. Guidance

The Department and the Country Fire Authority have collaborated to provide safety information for schools and early childhood services on preparing for the risk of bushfire and grassfire.

CFA has a variety of information, programs and tools, which can assist people to [plan and prepare for bushfire and grassfire](#).

This includes [Your Guide to Survival](#), which provides essential information for anyone who lives, works or travels throughout Victoria this summer.

To assist community members residing in high fire risk areas to prepare their properties and plans, the [Fire Ready Kit](#) provides more detailed information on summer fire safety.

3. Resources

https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/sites/i/_layouts/15/WopiFrame2.aspx?sourcedoc=/sites/i/Shared%20Documents/School_Site_Bushfire_and_Grassfire_Readiness_Review_Checklist.docx&action=default

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare>

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/schools/resources-for-schools-at-risk-of-fire>

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/your-guide-to-survival>

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/fire-ready-kit>