
	Management Area: Children's Services	Version No: 4.0 Pages: 4
	Category of Policy: Operational	Approval Date: 27/07/2023 Policy Approver: Head of Children's Services
Policy Title: Bushfire Policy		Author: YMCA of SA

YMCA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Bushfire Policy

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1. Purpose

Bushfires are an inherent part of Australia's environment. Bushfires can significantly impact lives, property, and the environment. Our Children's Services will take measures to protect the health and safety of children, educators, and visitors should an incident occur whilst at the service. The service will use preventative steps to reduce risk and will ensure all accidents, injuries, incidents, and hazards are reported and responded to appropriately.

2. Scope

The scope of this policy applies to all Board members, Sub Committee members, educators, and volunteers. This policy applies to all YMCA Member Associations. For the purposes of this document, we refer to these as the YMCA. All Policies and Procedures must conform to this policy.

3. Policy Statement

The BAL (bushfire attack level) measures the service's potential for exposure to ember attack, radiant heat, and direct flame in the event of a bush fire. The four categories are:


- R1 (extreme to very high risk)
- R2 (high risk)
- R3 (medium to low risk)
- NR (negligible risk)

Services with a risk rating of R1 and R2 will have a specific bushfire response plan as well as their general emergency management plan.

Catastrophic fire danger days - services located in R1 or R2 risk areas will be directed to close automatically on these days.

Fire Danger Ratings levels.

- Moderate
- High
- Extreme
- Catastrophic

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4. Roles and Responsibilities

Department / Area	Role / Responsibility
Children's Services Management	<p>Is responsible for the development, monitoring, and review of the policy and related systems, ensuring content meets all legislated requirements.</p> <p>To facilitate policy awareness to all educators on the appropriate implementation and use of the policy.</p>
Responsible Persons	<p>Nominated supervisor/service management will oversee the implementation and service adherence of the policy.</p> <p>Nominated supervisor/person with management and control will seek individual community feedback and facilitate an active consultation process with service users as appropriate.</p> <p>Is responsible for addressing any instance of non-compliance with this policy and implementing strategies to help prevent non-compliance with this policy.</p> <p>Responsible for ensuring suitable resources and support systems to enable compliance with this policy.</p> <p>Drive the consultation process and provide leadership and advice on the continuous improvement of the policy.</p>
All employees, volunteers & students	<p>Responsible for meeting the requirements outlined in this policy.</p> <p>Responsible for raising concerns or complaints in accordance with this policy.</p>


5. Definitions

Bush fire-prone area

Is an area of land that can support a bushfire or is likely to be subject to bushfire attack Bush fire prone maps are prepared by local councils and governments within each state and territory Baseline data for bushfire-prone areas is referred to as Bushfire Attack Level (BAL).

6. Key Relevant Documents

- Emergency Evacuation Policy
- Education and Care National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

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- Emergency and natural disaster assistance- Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

7. Monitoring Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier for reasonable cause or upon the request of the YMCA South Australia Board.

8. Version History

Version	Date	Description of changes	Effective Date	Review Date
2.0	15/06/2022	Create according to the Emergency plan.	03/02/2022	
3.0	27/07/2023	Update and review.	27/08/2023	July 2025
3.0	26/05/2025	Edited for clarity.	26/05/2025	May 2027