



Natte Yallock P.S. – No 1347

Grassfire/Bushfire Plan and Procedures

(Adapted from CFA Bushfire Plan)

Preamble

Victoria is one of the most fire-prone areas in the world and it is inevitable that fires will occur every year in parts of the state. Fire – by its very nature – is unpredictable and difficult to control especially on hot, dry, windy days. On these days, a fire may start near you.

Leaving early

‘Leaving early’ means being away from high-risk areas before there are any signs of fire.

Natte Yallock Primary School will notify parents to collect their children from school when there is sufficient time to do so. We would take advice from emergency services regarding this. No child to be collected by anyone other than members of the direct family without advice from a parent.

Why we should leave early

Because fires can start and spread very quickly in some conditions, leaving early is by far the safest option for anyone in a high-risk bushfire area. Many people have died trying to leave their homes at the last minute.

Even a fire that is kilometres away could be at your door in minutes. In certain conditions, embers can travel many kilometres in front of a fire and a grassfire can travel faster than you can run. Wind changes are unpredictable and can rapidly change the direction or size of a fire.

Driving in a bushfire is extremely dangerous, and potentially life threatening. A drive that would normally take five minutes could take two hours. Road closures, traffic jams, collisions, smoke, fallen trees and embers are all real possibilities.

In a bushfire, people may be confused, disoriented and physically or psychologically stressed. In these conditions, making good decisions becomes very difficult.

Defending Our School

At Natte Yallock Primary School we will **not** be making any attempts to defend our property. Our highest and only priority will be the safety of students and staff. On days of extreme fire danger (Code Red Days) the school and bus service will not operate.

The school has extremely minimal means of defending itself due to a limited water supply and a dependence on electrical pumps only (Which will most likely fail in the event of a fire)

It is also important to recognise that fires can start and spread on any day during summer, but also during spring and autumn. It's up to you to monitor warnings and stay aware of your surroundings – for instance, emergency services sirens or the smell of smoke in the air – right through the fire season.

Before the fire season

Natte Yallock Primary School will ensure that the grass and burnable debris in the school yard will be kept to a minimum

- 1) Which Fire Danger Rating is your trigger to leave?
As advised by emergency services
- 2) Where will you go?
Parents will be advised to collect their students from school. If emergency services advise emergency evacuation we will relocate to the Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve or as otherwise advised. If there is no time to evacuate the school, refuge to be taken in the office/kitchen block of the school. (There is access to toilets, cover from radiant heat, water, hard landline phone, first aid supplies etc.)
- 3) What route will you take – and what is your alternative in the event that a fire is already in the area?
Route take to the recreation reserve will be directly north out of school yard and down school road.
- 4) What will you take with you?
First Aid kit
Water
Blankets
Mobile phone
School attendance roll/contact phone list
Radio
Torch
- 5) Who do you need to keep informed of your movements?
Advise DEECD Security Services Unit on 95896266
South Western Regional Office, Andrea Cox. 53 378 429
- 6) How will you stay informed about warnings and updates?
Portable radio
Fire app. on mobile phone

7) What will you do if there is a fire in the area and you cannot leave?

Practical checklist – ensure you're ready

Take care of simple, practical actions before the fire season so you are ready to leave or seek shelter quickly, calmly and safely.

1. Pack an Emergency Kit with essential items and keep it in a handy place.
2. Scan important documents and photos onto a memory stick.
3. Purchase a battery-operated radio, powerful torch and extra batteries.
4. Save important contact numbers in your mobile phone. Include family, friends and the Victorian Bushfire Information Line. Have a spare mobile phone that you keep fully charged for emergencies.
5. Set aside protective clothing (long-sleeved, made from natural material like cotton) for each member of the family. Put woollen blankets in your car.
6. Practise packing your car so you know how long it will take.
7. Mark your primary routes, alternative routes and petrol stations on hard copy maps.
8. Make firm arrangements with anyone you plan to visit when you leave early.
9. Talk to neighbours or nearby friends about how you might help each other.
10. Don't forget pets and horses – include pet transport containers in your Emergency Kit. Know where you can move your horses to if they won't be safe on your property.

Appendix

Refer to School Bus Displan