



Catastrophic Fire Rating Head Office Policy

Procedure/Policy Area	Emergency Protocols Work Health & Safety	
Effective Date	24 February 2020	
Prepared By	ESA	24/02/2020
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Revision History

Current version	1.0	
Updated/Reviewed by	State Manager	
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Approved by	ESA Board	
Date of next review	January 2022	
Version	Date superseded	Reason for change
1.0		

Introduction

Fire Danger Ratings are routinely issued by 5 pm daily during the fire season by the Bureau of Meteorology and in conjunction with the Country Fire Service (CFS). Total Fire Bans are officially declared after 4pm the day prior.

A Catastrophic rating occurs under the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be extremely difficult to control. It will take significant firefighting resources and cooler conditions to bring it under control.

Scope of Policy

As part of Equestrian South Australia's (ESA) responsibility to its staff, the head office, located at Mount Barker, will close on any day rated as Catastrophic for the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Wherever possible, ESA will notify members via Facebook and on the website after 4pm the day prior, if the office is to be closed, along with a forwarding number or email address to contact during the standard business hours of 10am – 4pm.

Further Information

Fire Danger Ratings: what they mean and what you should do:

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHAT YOU SHOULD DO
CATASTROPHIC - Total Fire Ban	
<p>These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire.</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be extremely difficult to control. It will take significant fire fighting resources and cooler conditions to bring it under control.</p> <p>Spot fires will start well ahead of the main fire and cause rapid spread of the fire. Embers will come from many directions.</p> <p>Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions.</p> <p>The safest place to be is away from bushfire prone areas.</p>	<p>YOU NEED TO ACT NOW</p> <p>Put your survival first and leave bushfire-prone areas the night before or early in the day – this is your safest option.</p> <p>Act immediately – do not wait and see.</p> <p>Avoid forested areas, thick bush or long, dry grass.</p> <p>Prepare, know and practise a plan for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you will leave • How you will get there • What you will do if you cannot leave • Where you will go • When you will return
EXTREME - Total Fire Ban	
<p>These are very hot, dry and windy conditions for a bush or grass fire.</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be unpredictable, move very fast. It will be very difficult for fire fighters to bring under control.</p> <p>Spot fires will start and move quickly. Embers may come from many directions.</p> <p>Homes that are prepared to the highest level, have been constructed to bushfire protection levels and are actively defended may provide safety.</p> <p>You must be prepared physically and mentally to defend in these conditions.</p>	<p>YOU NEED TO GET READY TO ACT</p> <p>Only stay with your property if you are prepared to the highest level. This means your home has been constructed to bushfire protection levels - enclosed eaves, covers over external air conditioners, metal flyscreens etc.</p> <p>You must be well prepared and able to actively defend your home. This means you have the right equipment and resources to put out fires around your home - enough water supply, petrol/diesel portable pump, generator, protective clothing etc.</p> <p>If you are not prepared to the highest level, leaving bushfire prone areas early in the day is your safest option.</p>

Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating

The safest place to be is away from bushfire prone areas.	
SEVERE - Total Fire Ban	
<p>These are hot, dry and possibly windy conditions for a bush or grass fire.</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be hard for fire fighters to bring under control.</p> <p>Well-prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety.</p> <p>You must be prepared physically and mentally to defend in these conditions.</p>	<p>YOU NEED TO BE AWARE</p> <p>Well-prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety. This means you have the right equipment and resources to put out fires around your home - enough water supply, petrol/diesel portable pump, generator, protective clothing etc.</p> <p>If you are not prepared, leaving bushfire prone areas early in the day is your safest option.</p>
VERY HIGH	
HIGH	
LOW - MODERATE	
<p>If a fire starts, it is likely to be controlled in these conditions and homes can provide safety.</p> <p>Be aware of how fires can start and reduce the risk.</p>	<p>Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.</p> <p>Monitor conditions.</p> <p>You may need to act.</p> <p>Leave if necessary.</p>