

Bushfire Policy

The safety of students, staff and visitors is of paramount importance. The 'Faith Lutheran College Bushfire Policy' details a planned management strategy in the case of fire threatening the College, local communities or areas where staff and students travel to and from.

In particular, the Faith Lutheran College Bushfire Policy details the planned management strategy concerning:

- Bus travel to and from the College (Faith buses, DECD buses and Link SA buses)
- Private travel to and from the College (staff and students)
- Excursions and camps
- Bushfire safety at both campuses of Faith Lutheran College:
Early Learning Centre and Junior School, 16 Maria Street Tanunda
Middle and Senior School, 130 Magnolia Road Tanunda

The CFS Bushfire Management Area Plan determines the site and surrounding landscape of both campuses of Faith Lutheran College, located in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Area, to be of medium risk.

As a result:

- **On days declared catastrophic in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Area, Faith Lutheran College will be closed.**

As detailed in this policy, Faith Lutheran College reserves the right to...

- Cancel bus travel on catastrophic days
- Cancel bus travel on non-catastrophic days where there is deemed to be a risk to safety
- Cancel bus travel to areas with no fire activity, but where the bus travels through an area declared catastrophic or presents risk
- Retain students at Faith Lutheran College for parent and caregiver collection until the perceived threat has passed
- Release students to nominated alternate care

Emergency Services Contacts

CFS	Emergency	000
CFS	Hotline [fire information]	1300 362 361
Police	Nuriootpa:	8568 6620
	Eudunda:	8581 1100
	Freeling:	8525 2052
	Kapunda:	8566 2266
	Mt Pleasant:	8568 2023
	Riverton:	8847 2200
	Williamstown:	8524 6288
	Gumeracha:	8389 1007
	Woodside:	8389 7277

College Emergency Phone Contacts

- ELC and Junior School (08) 8563 2456
- Middle and Senior School (08) 8561 4200 / (08) 8561 4201 / (08) 8561 4295 (dedicated info line)
- Principal, Steven Wilksch mobile: 0407 721 835
- Head of Junior School, Michelle Keller mobile: 0408 392 147

Communication

As part of the planned bushfire management strategy, the predominant communication with College families will occur through SMS, email and the College website. The dedicated College information line (08) 8561 4295 will also be updated.

College families should be aware that the College reserves the right to cancel any and all bus travel regardless of the presence of fire activity. Given that Faith Lutheran College is in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Area, if a catastrophic day is declared in this region, no students will be permitted to travel home by bus.

Communicating that a catastrophic day has been declared

Normally the declaration of a catastrophic day will occur between 4.00pm and 6.00pm on the day preceding the catastrophic day. When catastrophic conditions are forecast on the afternoon prior to the declared day Faith Lutheran College will...

- Notify all staff and families via SMS and email (as soon as is practicable) that a catastrophic declaration has been made in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Area and Faith Lutheran College will be closed. (*Receptionist, Principal's PA*).
- Update information on the College website (*Director of Community Relations/ Publications Officer*).
- Update the College Infoline (*Receptionist, Principal's PA*).

Families should observe forecasts and not rely upon Faith Lutheran College to be the sole source of communicating the declaration of a catastrophic day.

Ultimately it is the responsibility of each family to determine their preferred course of action if conditions are declared catastrophic in areas outside of the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Area. Each family should enact their bushfire survival plan which includes deciding if your child/children will be permitted to travel to the College by bus. Families are reminded that some bus operators will still run on catastrophic days, while others won't – so it is imperative that families have a plan to avoid the risks of children being left at bus stops when buses may not be running. Further in this policy, advice is provided to parents/caregivers concerning which buses may run on catastrophic days.

If a catastrophic day is declared during the school day (after students have arrived) or where Faith Lutheran College determines there to be potential risk to students travelling on bus services, the College will...

- Notify all staff and families via SMS and email. SMS will confirm which bus routes will be cancelled (*Receptionist, Principal's PA, Bus Coordinator, Student Services*).
- Update information on the website (*Director of Community Relations, Publications Officer*)
- Update College Infoline (*Receptionist, Principal's PA*).

Bus travel on a day declared as catastrophic

Faith Lutheran College students travel on DECD, Link SA and Faith owned buses. The following outlines the procedures for all bus services / operators / services.

While the following details the procedure for bus travel on days declared catastrophic, College families are reminded that Faith Lutheran College reserves the right to cancel services where there is a perceived risk to students, even if the day has not been declared catastrophic.

DECD Bus travel

DECD operate the following services to the Middle and Senior School -

- Cockatoo Valley/Lyndoch
- Gomersal/Bethany
- Lyndoch Express
- Rowland Flat

On days declared catastrophic, it is the policy of DECD to cancel all bus services.

LINK SA Bus Travel

(www.linksa.com.au)

Link SA operate the following services:

Link SA Buses Morning Services

811	Angaston to Gawler & Evanston via Lyndoch & Williamstown
812	Angaston to Gawler & Evanston
1122	Mt Torrens to Tanunda via Birdwood & Angaston
1131	Cudlee Creek to Tanunda via Kersbrook & Lyndoch
1133	Mt Torrens to Tanunda via Lobethal & Lyndoch
1140	Hewitt to Nuriootpa via Willaston, Freeling, Marananga & Tanunda
1151	Tarlee to Tanunda Via Kapunda & Nuriootpa
1161	Riverton to Tanunda via Saddleworth & Kapunda
1171	Robertstown to Nuriootpa via Eudunda & Light Pass
1172	Tanunda to Nuriootpa via Moculta & Truro
1180	Cambrai to Tanunda via Angaston & Light Pass

Link SA Buses Afternoon Services

811	Angaston to Gawler & Evanston via Lyndoch & Williamstown
812	Angaston to Gawler & Evanston
1122	Tanunda to Mt Torrens via Angaston & Birdwood
1131	Tanunda to Cudlee Creek via Lyndoch & Kersbrook
1133	Tanunda to Mt Torrens via Lyndoch & Lobethal
1140	Nuriootpa to Hewett to via Tanunda, Marananga, Freeling, Willaston
1151	Tanunda to Tarlee via Nuriootpa & Kapunda
1161	Tanunda to Riverton via Kapunda & Saddleworth
1171	Nuriootpa to Robertstown via Light Pass & Eudunda
1172	Tanunda to Nuriootpa via Moculta, Truro & Nuriootpa
1180	Tanunda to Cambrai via Light Pass & Angaston

Parents and caregivers should be aware that Link SA provides a public service (accepts paying passengers – not just students). It should be anticipated that Link SA may run services even on a catastrophic day. Parents and caregivers will need to determine if they will permit their own

child/ren to travel to the College on a Link SA bus on a catastrophic day in areas outside of the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Area, where the College remains open.

Parents and caregivers should be aware however, that despite the Link SA services operating in the morning, if a catastrophic day has been declared during the day, (or if there is a potential threat), Faith Lutheran College will not permit students to travel home on Link SA buses.

Faith Bus Travel

Faith Lutheran College does not operate bus routes, however, does use its own buses for the purpose of excursions, camps and transporting students to College sanctioned events and activities.

Where it is known that a bushfire is likely to threaten part of a route, bus drivers, under no circumstances, should depart the College before obtaining clearance from the Principal.

Where unexpected bushfire threatens a bus in transit, no attempt should be made to drive along roadways obscured by smoke or flame, unless a clear direction to do so is given by a Fire Control Officer. If no direction is received the driver should...

- Reverse the route, return to a safe refuge and notify, as soon as possible, the Principal, Bus Coordinator and local emergency service.
- Immediately designate a staff member to monitor conditions and communicate with College and relevant authorities.

Fire Districts

Students that attend Faith Lutheran College generally live within three fire districts; these being:

- Mount Lofty
- Mid-North
- Murraylands

(visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

As a general rule, the following applies...

Declaration of catastrophic day in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Area (which includes much of the Barossa) will see the cancellation of...

- All buses

Declaration of catastrophic day in Mid-North will see area will see the cancellation of the following bus services:

- Eudunda
- Freeling/Marananga
- Gomersal/Bethany
- Nuriootpa/Ebenezer
- Saddleworth
- Tarlee

Declaration of catastrophic day in the Murraylands will see the cancellation of the following bus services:

- Cambrai
- Eudunda

Student Collection (for bus travelling students)

In the event that bus travel is cancelled, and students remain at the College, Faith Lutheran College will:

- Require students to be picked up and signed out by parents/caregivers.
- Only release students to an alternate carer if express permission has been given by parents (written note, phone call).
- Endeavour to maintain contact with families.
- If school is in imminent danger, move all students to the designated fire refuge building.

If students remain at the College, the following roles have been assigned. Nominated staff are required at the College until released by the Principal or Head of Junior School...

- Principal/ Head of Junior School – communication with emergency services / media
- Student Services Staff, Principal's PA, Front Office Staff – communication with families (sign in and out students / release students to alternate carers)
- Receptionist – manage phones
- Community Relations, Marketing and IT staff – manage website, info line, social media
- District Leaders and Senior Leadership Team/ Junior School Class Teachers and ELC staff – student supervision and management in Barossa Arts Centre/ Harvest Centre
- Canteen staff – student catering /care
- Teaching staff who are able to remain at the College are encouraged to do so

(Any staff member responsible for the above roles who is unable to be at the College on a catastrophic day must advise the Deputy Principal who will reassign duties to another staff member. Reassignment of duties must be 'like for like'. For instance, a District Leader replaced with a year level teacher.

Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities

- Ensure Faith Lutheran College has up to date parent and caregiver contact information (mobile, email etc.).
- Complete the 'Student Mode of Transport' form as a matter of priority.
- Take steps to determine if a catastrophic day has been declared and what areas are impacted.
- Have a bushfire plan that includes knowing in advance what you will do on a catastrophic day in relation to whether your children will be going to school (if the College is open) or staying home. Inform the College of your decision.
- Talk to your children about your bushfire plan.
- Be familiar with this policy.
- Monitor radio station ABC891 on a battery-operated radio.
- Respond to a decision made by Faith Lutheran College to cancel bus services and therefore arrange collection of students from Faith Lutheran College.

Student and Staff Drivers

The South Australian Government recommends that residents leave a catastrophic fire risk area the day before the risk day and not return until after the risk has passed. The government also recommends that residents do not travel on a catastrophic day.

Students

Students who drive to and from the College **should not do so on a catastrophic day**. If a catastrophic day is declared during the school day, staff from Student Services will notify student drivers they will not be permitted to drive until contact with parents/caregivers has been made and permission given.

Staff

On catastrophic days, staff in affected areas may elect not to attend Faith Lutheran College. Any staff member with a designated role within this policy who will be absent, must ensure the Deputy Principal/ Head of Junior School is made aware of their role (regarding this policy) so that a replacement can be appointed.

Circumstances whereby the College would 'lock down' and prevent all students from leaving

If a bushfire was to threaten the vicinity of the College (including surrounding towns), Faith Lutheran College reserves the right to 'lock down' and retain all students after the official school day has concluded. In this case parents and caregivers would be notified by SMS and would be required to collect students when safe to do so.

Bushfire Safety at both campuses of Faith Lutheran College

Both campuses of Faith Lutheran College are located within the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Area and the official fire danger season usually runs from 1st December to 30th April. The area around both College sites is substantially cleared and the fire history in the area is limited.

The designated fire refuge building at the ELC and Junior School is the Harvest Centre.
The designated fire refuge building at the Middle and Senior School is the Barossa Arts Centre.
Students would be picked up from these buildings once it is safe to do so.

Written by: Ben Schwarz

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