



Policy Name	Catastrophic Weather Warning Policy
Related Policies and Legislation	Catastrophic Weather Warning Procedure Critical Incident & Emergency Policy Emergency Evacuation Policy Evacuation Procedure
Policy Category	Student Wellbeing & Safety
Relevant Audience	All Treetops Community
Date of Issue / Last Revision	10 May 2012 8 th February 2016
Date Set for Review	February 2017
Person/s Responsible for Review	Treetops Administration

Catastrophic Weather Warning Policy

Prior to Fire Season:

1. The Principal shall ensure that:

- The Safe Refuge is readied
- Evacuation signage is in place
- Onsite Evacuation Drills have been carried out
- The Evacuation Kit is readied
- Bushfire preparedness messages are incorporated into staff and classroom discussions as appropriate.
- The school is included on AISWA's register for notification of a Catastrophic Fire Warning and that AISWA has up to date contact details for designated Treetops staff.
- Treetops' email directory and staff telephone tree are up to date.

During Fire Season (1st October – 1st April)

1. Parents should not send their children to school on days when a **Catastrophic Fire Warning** has been issued. On these days the school will be closed, in accordance with the advice from *Department of Education Services* and *The Association of Independent School of Western Australia (AISWA)*.
Parents are encouraged to monitor Fire Danger Ratings during Fire season.
2. The Principal shall monitor the Fire Rating at regular intervals throughout the day (AISWA will provide back-up monitoring and will inform the school). **If a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating occurs a pre-emptive closure will be initiated.**
3. If a Catastrophic Fire Rating is issued without warning, a decision will be made about the safety of an offsite evacuation of the school (requiring the coordination of parents to collect children).
4. If there is a Catastrophic Fire Rating and there is **a fire in the area** students will be immediately **evacuated to the Safe Refuge** and **DFES Communication Centre will be notified of the situation.** (See ***Bushfire Response in Treetops Emergency and Critical Incident Management Plan.***) The school will follow the advice of Emergency Services in regards to evacuation and collection of students.