

Education

Building Disaster Resilience in Young People



Term 4, 2018

NEW CLASSROOM RESOURCES – Bushfire Patrol



Bushfire Patrol has been revamped in readiness for the 2018/19 bushfire season for primary school students. Soon to be released, these WA curriculum-linked resources have been evaluated and rewritten using the latest research in disaster resilience education. Similar to North West Bushfire Patrol (released in February 2018 for Kimberley and Pilbara schools), Bushfire Patrol is suitable for classroom use in all other regions of Western Australia.

Bushfire Patrol provides students with greater understanding of weather conditions, bushfire seasons and bushfire risks. Students access information about current bushfires, including their local daily fire danger rating and current bushfire warnings. With the help of their families, students develop their own family bushfire survival plan. *Bushfire Patrol* includes videos, photographs and illustrations to help students work towards the following outcomes:

- How to identify safe and unsafe bushfire behaviour
- Knowing when the bushfire season starts and ends and understanding that there are unsafe fire times and risks
- Developing skills and personal behaviours to help students prepare for, respond to and stay safe during a bushfire

Please visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au/schools in early November to access this new and exciting teaching resource.

Is your school in a Bush Fire Prone Area and/or on the Bushfire Zone Register?

The [Map of Bushfire Prone Areas](#) is an online map, which identifies areas within Western Australia that are designated as bushfire prone. A Bushfire Prone Area includes both an area containing bushfire prone vegetation and a 100-metre buffer zone immediately surrounding it. It is important to recognise that land not identified as bushfire prone on the map may still be subject to bushfire.

Independent and Catholic schools should check the Map of Bushfire Prone Areas to see if their school lies in an area that is designated as bush fire prone and view their bushfire plans accordingly.

If a public school site is coloured pink on the Bush Fire Prone Map, it is deemed to be likely to be subject to bushfire attack and is included on the Department of Education's Bushfire Zone Register. From 2018, schools listed on the Bushfire Zone Register MUST have an approved standalone bushfire plan that is reviewed and submitted on the Department of Education's (DoE) Intranet SharePoint each August. Log onto Ikon and type in 'bushfires and bushfire preparedness' to see if your school is on the Bushfire Zone Register.



DFES urges all teachers to know and understand their school's bushfire plan. If you don't know your school's plan, have a chat with your principal and make it a priority to get a copy today.

[Darlington Primary School](#) take their bushfire evacuation plans seriously and regularly involve staff and students in bushfire drills.

Have you had a 5 Minute Fire Chat?

5 MINUTE FIRE CHAT

If you're planning to teach your students about bushfire this season, chances are, you too, live in a bushfire prone area. Have you had a 5 Minute Fire Chat with your own family? 5 Minute Fire Chat is the first stage to creating a more detailed fire plan. It includes a tool to help you choose your bushfire plan and decide as a family, when you will know to leave, where you will go and which way you will go.

Fire Chat resources are available at www.dfes.wa.gov.au/firechat. *Bushfire Patrol* encourages you to invite staff members to your classroom to discuss their own bushfire plans with your class. This is a great opportunity for you to share your own bushfire plan with your students.

What if you are away from your home and you have no mobile reception? Many people believe the SOS button on their mobile phones means they can still call 000. [You cannot always rely on your mobile phone in an emergency.](#)

Cyclone Season Resources – November to April

In November, residents in the North West are moving from bushfire season into cyclone season. A tropical cyclone is a natural hazard that brings with it damaging winds, heavy rainfall, flooding and storm surge. The heavy rainfall associated with cyclones can result in flash and broad-scale flooding. Tropical cyclones can cause injury and/or death; cause major destruction to buildings and infrastructure; and, disrupt services such as power, water and telecommunications.



DFES provides upper primary classroom resources for Cyclone and Flood on the DFES website. Find all six modules under the heading Cyclone and Flood Lesson Plans at www.dfes.wa.gov.au/schools in the Years 4-6 resources.

World Tsunami Awareness Day – Monday 5 November

With the recent earthquake activity in the southwest, you may want to find out more about earthquake drills and what to do in the event of an earthquake. You may be planning to participate in the [Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills](#) on 19 October but did you know that it is World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5 November? World Tsunami Awareness Day aligns with the International Day for Disaster Reduction. Find out how [Tilly Smith](#), an English schoolgirl helped save the lives of dozens of people while on holidays in Thailand in December 2004.

Geraldton Volunteer Marine Rescue Group – Visit to Allendale Primary School



Western Australians love their boating, fishing and water sports, especially over the warmer months. The DFES Volunteer Marine Rescue Service (VMRS) has nearly 40 volunteer groups along the vast WA coastline. These dedicated volunteers help people access Western Australia's marine environment in the safest possible way by providing marine rescue services and promoting safety on the water.

Geraldton Volunteer Marine Rescue Group recently visited Allendale Primary School. Demonstrations on the school oval included communications, flares, EPIRBs (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) and a life raft.

If boating, always remember to check the marine weather report before you go, carry the required safety equipment and log on and log off with your local group.

Do you know a young person who has been involved in fire play?

The Juvenile & Family Fire Awareness (JAFFA) Program is a free, confidential fire safety education program for young people aged 6 to 16 that have been involved in fire lighting. JAFFA assists young people to understand fire behaviour, fire safety and the legal implications of lighting fires and the consequences of burns. For a referral form or for further information about the program, phone 9395 9488 or visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au/jaffa.

Contacts

For excursion bookings at DFES' Education and Heritage Centre phone: (08) 9395 9866

For all other school enquiries call: (08) 9395 9816

Website: <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/schooleducation/Pages/default.aspx>

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Government of **Western Australia**
Department of Fire & Emergency Services

