



Procedures for Snow and Catastrophic Bushfire Warning

1. Snow Procedures

Snowfall at Oberon High School is unpredictable and can impact student and staff safety due to hazardous road conditions. These procedures provide guidance for operation decisions before and during school hours, considering the duty of care of students and employees.

1.1 Before School Commences

- Monitoring:
 - The Principal or nominee will monitor Council website updates from 7:00 am onwards for road closure alerts.
 - Police provide road closure information between 4:00 pm and 7:00 am.
 - Road closures also broadcast on local radio 2LT and 2BS.
- Consultation and Decision:
 - The Principal will contact the Council and/or Police to verify road conditions.
 - The bus company, Oberon Public School, and St Joseph's Catholic School will be consulted due to shared bus services.
 - A decision on whether the school will open will be made in consultation with the Director NSW Public Schools Bathurst.
- Communication:
 - School operational status to be announced via radio station 2BS and other appropriate channels.
 - Staff unable to attend due to road closures must notify the Deputy Principal or Principal as soon as possible.
 - Staff may be asked to attend the nearest school if unable to reach Oberon High safely.

1.2 During School Hours

- Parent Communication:
 - At the start of each year, parents living outside Oberon must provide in writing:
 - An alternative in-town address for their child in case of road closures preventing buses from operating.
 - Preferences for early dismissal: collecting their child or sending them to the nominated alternative home.
 - Parents residing in town should provide instructions in writing regarding their child's travel: bus, walking home, or being collected.
- Early Dismissal Procedures:
 - The school will attempt to notify parents if buses cannot deliver students.
 - If buses are to leave early, all students and staff will assemble in the school hall for briefing.
 - The Principal will determine which staff can leave safely and which must remain for supervision.
 - Students will be escorted safely to buses by Deputy Principal or Head Teachers.
 - In-town students remain on site unless a parent requests otherwise.
 - Office staff will maintain parental instructions and contact parents once buses have departed early.
 - The Principal or nominee will notify the Director NSW Public Schools Bathurst and radio station 2BS about the situation.

1.3 Safety Around Ice ("Black Ice")

- Inspection:
 - The Principal or nominee will inspect car parks and footpaths for ice formation during icy conditions.
 - Action:
 - If ice is present in the car park, it will be closed off with tape and warning signs; staff must park roadside.
 - Icy footpaths will be taped off and alternative safe pathways marked by cones across the lawn.
 - Students will remain indoors until conditions are safe to exit.
 - Staff Travel Safety:
 - Staff who consider conditions unsafe for travel must immediately notify the Deputy Principal or Principal of their intention not to attend.
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2. Catastrophic Bushfire Warning - Temporary School Closure Procedure

When the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) issues a Catastrophic Fire Danger rating, Oberon High School will follow departmental direction to temporarily cease operations as part of the bushfire emergency response.

2.1 Monitoring and Information Sources

- The Principal or delegate will:
 - Regularly check Alert Levels via the "Hazards Near Me" app.
 - Monitor updates on local radio, television, ABC emergency broadcaster, and NSW RFS social media channels (facebook.com/nswrfs and twitter.com/nswrfs).

2.2 Decision-Making and Communication

- In the event of a Catastrophic Fire Danger rating declared for the Oberon area:
 - The Principal will receive direction from the NSW Department of Education to close the school proactively for the following day.
 - The school community will be notified immediately via text, email, phone calls, and local broadcasting outlets.
 - The Principal will coordinate with the Director NSW Public Schools Bathurst and ensure all staff and parents are informed.
 - If a bushfire directly threatens the school or nearby area during school operation hours:
 - The Principal will initiate the school's Emergency Bushfire Response Plan, prioritising student and staff safety.
 - Evacuation or shelter-in-place procedures will be followed as per emergency plans.
 - Communication with emergency services and Department contacts will be maintained.
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3. General Notes

- These procedures serve as a guide and may not cover every situation. The Principal retains authority to make decisions based on best available information and prevailing circumstances.
 - The Principal's duty of care extends to all students and employees, considering updated WHS laws and travel safety risks.
 - All staff and parents should stay informed through official channels and cooperate with school directions during hazardous conditions.
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