

## 2.13 BUSHFIRE PROCEDURE

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### INTRODUCTION

Although Lindfield Montessori School is not directly located in an area with a lot of surrounding bush land, it is still possible that a bushfire could affect us through a nearby suburb fire at some stage e.g Lane Cove National Park. It is therefore necessary to consider problems that may arise in the event of a bushfire.

Smoke outside the school may present respiratory problems for some of the children and staff. To minimise the impact of smoky conditions, all doors and windows are to be kept closed.

To assist with firefighting operations, the power may be cut. If this happens, the school will cease to have access to fans, air conditioners and lighting. The school mobile phone will be required to provide telephone access to emergency services, parents etc.

Water and sewerage can also be interrupted by a bushfire. Both water pressure and water quality can be affected. As the school has its own supply of water in a dispenser filled at the start of each day, it is likely that the children's and staff's need for water could be adequately met.

Gutters are cleaned regularly at working bees.

*NB: In the event of a bushfire, the school could not operate, and all children will be sent home.*

### EVACUATION

If an order to evacuate is received, it is essential that the evacuation begins immediately, even if staff may not feel threatened by the fire. It takes time and critical organisation to evacuate children and staff safely from a preschool.

After the evacuation, a group email will be sent to all parents explaining that the children have been evacuated due to bushfire. Instructions from the fire brigade will determine where our evacuation point is. The school mobile number will be included on the email which is saved in the draft section of the [principal@lindfieldmontessori.nsw.edu.au](mailto:principal@lindfieldmontessori.nsw.edu.au) email account and is web based.

If safe, the children and staff will assemble on the large, grassed area and walk to the footpath outside the Vet at Lindfield shops, unless directed otherwise. They will wait here for parents to arrive and collect their child/ren. The Committee President will be telephoned and asked to help contact other parents.

In the event of an evacuation, attendance records, the First Aid bag (with contact lists and the first aid kit) ipad and mobile phone would be collected and taken.

Evacuation drills are practiced once every three months to ensure a calm and orderly exit from the premises and to meet regulations.

POLICY REVIEWED	MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE
November 2021	Updated copy	September 2023