

BLACKWOOD church of christ

Policy 2 BUSHFIRE PROTECTION POLICY

Policy Background

The Blackwood Church of Christ is located in the Mt. Lofty Ranges Fire Ban District. The Country Fire Service (CFS) provides advice on bushfire safety measures for the summer season.

The CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au contains detailed information about fire safety awareness, preparedness and actions. The Fire Danger Rating System has recently been changed to have only four rating levels, with 'Catastrophic' still being the highest risk where the safest place is to be away from high risk bushfire areas.

The Mount Lofty Ranges (including Blackwood and surrounding hills suburbs) are high risk bushfire areas. The fire danger season for this area is 1st December to 30th April.

The CFS has identified places that people can relocate to if threatened by a bushfire. There are two categories.

Bushfire Safer Places - These are considered suitable to go to during bad fire weather or if a bushfire is a concern and if you need to relocate early.

The Adelaide Metropolitan area is nominated as a Bushfire Safer Place including the plains areas of the Mitcham Council.

In addition The Blackwood District Centre has been listed as a Safer Place to stay. Refer to the CFS website for a detailed map of this area.

Refuge of Last Resort - These are intended to provide minimum temporary protection until a fire front has passed, and only to be used when a personal Bushfire Survival Plan cannot be implemented.

No services will be available in these places.

The places identified in the Blackwood area are:

- Blackwood Hill Oval, Trevor Terrace & Craighburn Road Blackwood
- Hewett Sports Ground, Coromandel Parade & Garnet Avenue Blackwood
- Bellevue Heights Oval, Sargent Parade Bellevue Heights

Policy Purpose

To provide advice in relation to use of the Blackwood Church of Christ inc premises during the fire ban season.

Policy Statement

1. The Blackwood Church of Christ inc policy is intended to avoid putting occupants of the premises at any risk during a day of severe, extreme or catastrophic fire danger.
2. The Blackwood Church of Christ inc premises will not be declared as a refuge of last resort.
3. The premises will be closed and not accessible on days of declared catastrophic fire danger for the Blackwood area.
4. If a Sunday is declared as a day of catastrophic fire danger for the Blackwood area, the premises will be closed and there will be no worship service held.

Fire danger ratings are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology each day after 4:00pm for the following day.

It is considered safer for the congregation and users to implement their personal or family Bushfire Survival Plan rather than putting lives at risk by gathering at the Church.

5. If the premises are occupied when an Emergency Warning Message has been broadcast for the Blackwood area, occupants can choose to leave. The premises will remain open for those who consider it too dangerous to travel.

An Emergency Warning message is issued when there is a bushfire threatening and indicates that “you are in danger and you need to take action immediately; you will be impacted by fire”. This message will usually be preceded by the standard emergency warning signal, and be broadcast on ABC local radio (891), FIVEaa, Cruise 1323, MIX 102.3, SAFM, Nova 919 and Triple M.

6. On all other days the premises will be open for normal programs and activities.

Reviewed April 2023

FURTHER NOTES

Families and individuals are encouraged to develop their own Bushfire Survival Plan (refer to the CFS website for more information, www.cfs.sa.gov.au) and to implement it on days of fire danger.

The CFS advise that the greatest danger to human life when a fire is actually threatening is in travelling on roads by choosing to leave home at the last minute.

Policy References

CFS Web site www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Mitcham Community News December Edition

Review of Policy

This policy shall be reviewed every two years or as required

Further Information

If you require further information, contact the Blackwood Church of Christ inc Office

Authorised by: (Chair of Elders)

Signature: Date: April 2023