

# Safety Alert

## Hot Weather and Fire Risk

Issue Date: 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018

### What has happened?

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 5pm, a staff member observed a small fire burning in a garden bed at Bundoora West and called on colleagues for assistance.

As the fire was only small in size, it was able to be extinguished using water from the adjacent building (B215). Once extinguished, Security were also notified.

On examination, it was observed that there was a discarded cigarette in the burnt area as well as additional discarded cigarettes nearby. It is thought that the cigarette was the cause of the fire as there were no other possible ignition sources in the vicinity.

### What does this highlight?

Despite rain in recent weeks the ground is already very dry. With the current heat being experienced in Melbourne, the risk of fire will only continue to increase and we need to be extra vigilant.

### Actions required from all personnel:

#### All staff and students are required to:

1. **Only** smoke in **designated** smoking areas. These areas are clearly signed and have receptacles provided.
2. **Fully extinguish** any cigarette and dispose of it using the receptacle provided.



### Total Fire Ban

This provides a timely opportunity to consider hot days and their impact over summer.

For information regarding what you can or cannot do on a day of Total Fire Ban, please visit:

[http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/fm\\_files/attachments/warnings\\_and\\_restrictions/Can I or Cant I brochure nov 2016.pdf](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/fm_files/attachments/warnings_and_restrictions/Can_I_or_Cant_I_brochure_nov_2016.pdf)

### Hot weather considerations

- Look after yourself and be sun smart; put sunscreen on, wear a hat and clothes that protect you from UV i.e. long sleeves and always have water on hand.
- If you have work to do, try to do it in the early morning before the heat and make sure you take regular breaks.
- Check on people you know who are elderly or unwell.
- Make sure that all pets have constant access to shade and water.
- Avoid refuelling equipment such as lawn mowers and brush cutters when the engine is still hot.
- Avoid driving vehicles through long grass. The heat from the vehicle's engine can start a grass fire.
- Keep grass short under electric fences and turn electric fences off on days of high fire danger.
- Prepare your personal property: <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property/>