



Teacher Resource

Fire Rating Update

Focus Questions

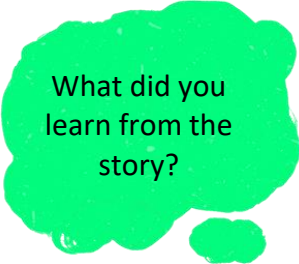
Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What is the Fire Danger Rating System?
2. Why are they changing the Fire Danger Rating System?
3. How many categories does the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System have?
4. What does the Fire Danger Rating System tell us?
 - a. How likely a fire is
 - b. How dangerous a fire is
 - c. How many fires there are
5. What questions do you have about the story?


Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Fire Rating Update story as a class. Ask students to record what they know about bushfires and the fire danger rating system. What questions do they have? Use the following questions to help guide discussion:

- Have you seen a fire danger rating system before? If so, where did you see it?
- Why do we have a fire danger rating system?
- What does a fire danger rating tell you?
- How can you find out about what the fire danger rating is each day?
- Who forecasts the fire danger rating each day?
- What does AFDRS stand for?
- What questions do you have?



What did you learn from the story?



What questions do you have about the story?

EPISODE 25

30th August 2022

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about Australia's new fire danger rating system. Students will learn more about the science of bushfires.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 5

The impact of bushfires or floods on environments and communities, and how people can respond.

Science – Year 5 & 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

Science – Year 6

Sudden geological changes and extreme weather events can affect Earth's surface.

Science – Year 7

Scientific knowledge has changed peoples' understanding of the world and is refined as new evidence becomes available.

PLEASE NOTE: Talking about bushfires may be upsetting for some children and may cause some discomfort, distress and/or anxiety. Please refer to the following links for information on how to talk to children about bushfires and upsetting news.

[UNICEF](#) has created a guide about how to talk to children about the bushfires.

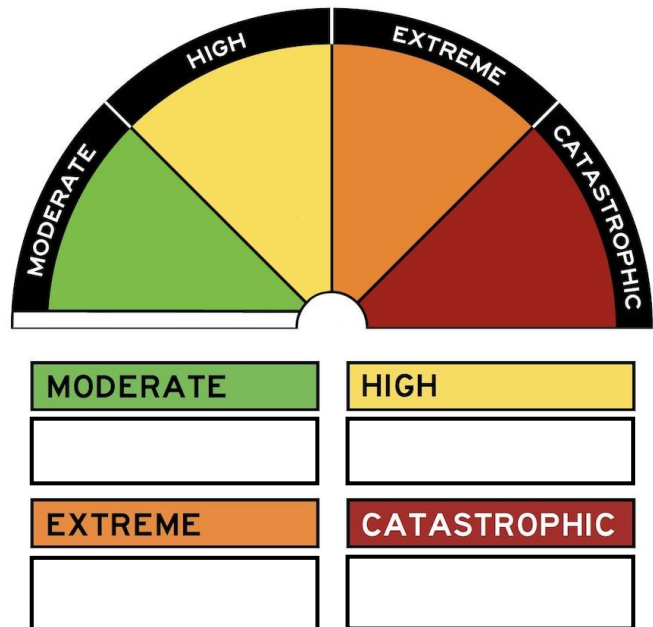
[Kids Helpline](#) has some information to help children cope with natural disasters.

[BTN](#) has a short video about the Important Things to Remember about Upsetting News.

Activity: Test your knowledge

After students have watched the BTN Fire Rating Update story as a class, test their knowledge on what they have learnt about the new fire danger rating system. Ask students to match the action people need to take for each fire rating level.

| |
|---|
| For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas |
| Be ready to act |
| Plan and prepare |
| Take action now to protect life and property |



Activity: Quiz

1. Australia has a new fire danger rating system because the old system was too confusing.

- A. True
- B. False

2. When does the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) come into action?

- A. 1st September 2022
- B. 25th December 2022
- C. 1st January 2023

3. How many different types of vegetation or fuels will be included in the new AFDRS?

- A. 1
- B. 3
- C. 8

4. What does the new AFDRS tell us?

- A. How likely a fire is
- B. How dangerous a fire is
- C. How many fires there are

5. How many fire danger ratings does the new system have?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- A. 6

6. What describes the amount of fallen bark, leaf litter and small branches in the landscape?

- A. Fuel moisture

Quiz Answers: 1A, 2A, 3C, 4B, 5B, 6B

B. Fuel load

C. Fuel type

Activity: Inquiry Research

After watching the BTN Fire Rating Update story, hold a questions and answers discussion to encourage students to engage with the topic and learn more about the science of bushfires and their impact on communities, individuals and the environment.

What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic.

| What do I <u>know</u> ? | What do I <u>want</u> to know? | What have I <u>learnt</u> ? | <u>How</u> will I find out? |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | |

Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below. Encourage students to collect and record information from a wide variety of sources and present the information they find in an interesting way.

- Why do we have a new Australian Fire Danger Rating System? Why is it better than the previous systems?
- What are the different ratings in the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System? Describe what each rating means.
- What will the Fire Danger Ratings look like? Illustrate the new sign. Explain what each of the features and elements are on the sign.
- Why is it important to have a fire danger rating system?
- How do bushfires start? (Think about fuel, weather and geographical conditions).
- What are fuel types? List the 8 different fuel types. Show a map which highlights the different fuel types across Australia.
- What is cultural burning? How can we learn from First Nations Peoples about looking after Country? To learn more about cultural burning, go to the [Firesticks website](#). This [Traditional burning video](#) explores bushfire management practices in more detail.
- What role does fire play in keeping the ecosystem healthy?



- Research a major bushfire occurrence in Australia. Include the following information in your investigation: Where the fire started, what caused the fire and the damage it caused.

Activity: Campaign

Students will design a public education campaign to raise awareness about the new Australian Fire Rating Danger System. As a class look at this [AFDRS poster](#) and ask your students how it could be more kid friendly. Record their responses.

Students will then create their own poster to educate kids around Australia about the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System. Students will need to think about their campaign's aim, target audience, and the value of raising awareness in their community. Use [Canva](#) to design a poster to put up around your school and the wider community.

To create a school awareness campaign, students will need to identify the following:

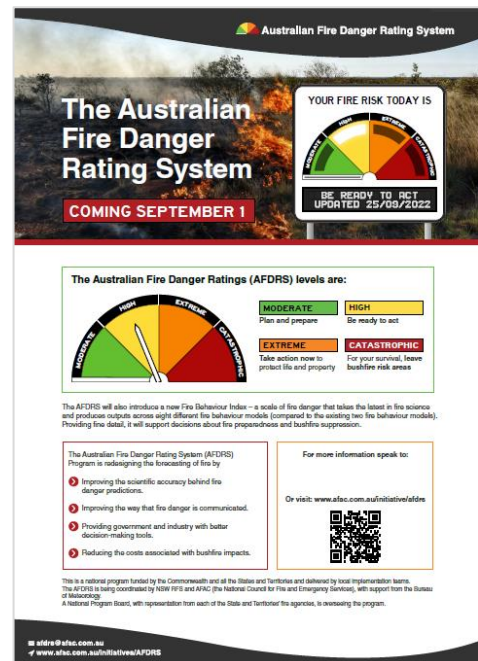
- What do the new fire danger ratings look like? Where can people find the signs?
- How can you find out what the fire danger rating is each day?
- What is the most dangerous fire rating?
- Who forecasts the fire danger rating each day?
- What action should you take (for each of the fire danger ratings)?
- How can we be prepared for a bushfire?

Some questions to consider when designing your campaign:

- What is the campaign's main aim?
- Do you have a slogan or message? What is it?
- Who is your target audience?
- What is the best way to communicate the message?

Discuss with students how they will get their message out there to help raise public awareness. Some possibilities include:

- Short film or animation
- Community service announcement (for television or radio).
- Press release (create posters to be put up around the school).



National Council for Fire and Emergency Services – [AFDRS poster](#)

Activity: BTN Stories

As a class watch one or more of the following BTN stories to learn about bushfires and their impact on people and the environment. After watching any one of the BTN videos ask students to respond to the discussion questions (to find the discussion questions and teacher resources go to the related BTN Classroom Episode and download the Episode Package).



[Black Summer Bushfires](#)



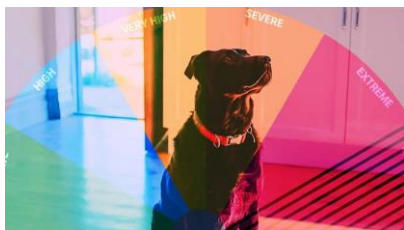
[Bushfire Kids Visit](#)



[Fire Preparations](#)



[Bushfire Season](#)



[Pet Bushfire Safety](#)



[Burn off Season](#)

Useful Websites

- [Updated fire danger rating system will be rolled out next month. Here's what you need to know](#) – ABC News
- [Bushfire Season](#) – BTN
- [Fire Danger Ratings are changing soon](#) – NSW Rural Fire Service
- [Fire Heroes](#) – BTN
- [Burn Off Season](#) – BTN
- [Australian Fire Danger Rating System](#) – National Council for Fire and Emergency Services
- [Australian Fire Danger Rating System \(FAQs\)](#) – National Council for Fire and Emergency Services