

Catastrophic Fire Days

The Coromandel Valley Uniting Church Policy for all Church Activities on Catastrophic Fire Days

Given that each person's situation is different, the church cannot give specific advice on what to do on a Catastrophic Fire Day. Each person should look to their own Bushfire Survival Plan before coming to church on any given day, whether this is for a regular ministry activity or for a church service.

Each person is responsible for their own safety on Catastrophic Fire Days.

In consultation with the Coromandel Valley UCA minister, it has been decided that the church will be open for normal activities on a Catastrophic Fire Day, however these activities may look and be different, as we cannot expect people who are rostered on to attend church if it conflicts with their personal Bushfire Survival Plan.

Note: The church will not open if there is a fire that could potentially threaten the lives of staff or those attending church. If unsure you can check before attending church by:

- Listening to the radio (eg. 891 ABC Adelaide) for regular warnings and updates
- Checking with the Bushfire Information Hotline: 1300 362 361
- Viewing the '[Current Incidents](https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/warnings_and_incidents.jsp)' page on the CFS website
(https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/warnings_and_incidents.jsp)

1. Look to your own Bushfire Survival Plan. You are responsible for your own safety.
2. Look to the needs of your neighbour/s.
3. Consider your need to travel.
 - We strongly advise you to keep off the roads in fire affected areas as the most dangerous place in a bushfire is travelling. If you must travel, be aware of any fires that may have started and whether you may be affected.
4. According to the Sturt CFS, fire sirens will alert you to any fires near the church.
5. We cannot and do not expect people to keep commitments at church on such days.
6. A church service will not be held if there is a fire anywhere near the church. If you are uncertain please check the CoroUniting website or ring a staff member.
7. If you choose to attend, expect the service to be affected: it will be different. We will monitor the CFS website during the service and provide you with prompt advice of any incidents.
 - We suggest you put your mobile phones on vibrate during the service so that you are aware of any messages from the CFS or elsewhere.
8. Church property **will not** be defended if threatened by fire. This is a directive of Synod. Protecting life and limb is more important than protecting buildings, which are insured.