WILDFIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION

Attention Northland School Division (NSD) Families,

Given previous events concerning wildfires, we fully understand and share your concerns and anxieties. To ensure the safety of students and staff, we actively review emergency plans for each school and work with emergency contacts in the communities we serve. This includes making sure emergency contact information is up-to-date. If your contact information has changed recently, please contact your local school to ensure information is updated.

WHEN A WILDFIRE EMERGENCY OCCURS

Communication Channels

During an emergency, we will contact parents/guardians directly or by one of the methods noted below:

- School Messenger: We use School Messenger to send notifications (phone, email, text message) to parents/guardians for urgent matters, student attendance and other events taking place.
- Facebook
- Division Website: www.nsd61.ca

What happens if Evacuation Alert/Order is called?

If an evacuation alert or order is declared, we will communicate information we receive from the nearest municipality or settlement. This may include the following measures:

- It may be determined that it is best to dismiss students to their homes and families.
- Parents/guardians will be contacted directly by phone, School Messenger (emergency notification system) or Facebook.
- School buses will operate if the Evacuation Alert is more than four-hours.
- **If the municipality or settlement declares a four-hour evacuation alert, buses will NOT operate**. All parents/guardians will be asked to pick up their child or children.
- Staff will remain at the school until all students are accounted for.
- Air quality will be monitored by the school and decisions such as staying inside for recess and breaks or any other measures needed for student safety will be communicated as soon as possible.

STAY INFORMED

For the most current information on the wildfires and safety recommendations, we encourage you to visit the following resources:

- Alberta Emergency Alert: Provides updates on emergency situations across Alberta https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-emergency-alert.aspx
- Alberta Wildfire Status Dashboard: Offers real-time information on wildfire statuses https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/3ffcc2d0ef3e4e0999b0cf8b636defa3
- Wildfire Status: Details current wildfire situations https://www.alberta.ca/wildfire-status.aspx
- 511 Alberta: Features traffic and road condition alerts https://511.alberta.ca/#:Alerts
- Smoke Forecast: Provides forecasts on smoke conditions https://firesmoke.ca/forecasts/current/

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We urge everyone to stay informed by regularly checking these resources and adhering to any guidelines or instructions issued. Preparing a personal safety plan, including an evacuation plan, and discussing it with your family can also be a valuable step in ensuring everyone's safety.

The safety of students and staff is Northland School Division's top priority. We are committed to keeping you informed and taking all necessary steps to ensure everyone's safety during this time. For families with high school students who drive and plan to leave before the end of the school day, or need to leave school for a period of time, we kindly ask that these students sign out at the office before departing. This protocol is crucial for maintaining accurate records of student whereabouts and ensuring the safety of the school community.

If you have any questions, please contact your local school.

Northland
SCHOOL DIVISION

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