

FNESS QUARTERLY **Responder**

Issue 15
THIRD QUARTER
October•November•December
2015

First Nations' Emergency
Services Society of BC

FNESS Safety Message : Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

Be Warm and Safe this winter!

- Keep anything that can burn 3 feet away from all heating appliances.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected yearly by a qualified professional
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed
- Test your smoke alarms monthly
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm to avoid the risk of CO poisoning



Heat your home safely.

Keep anything that can burn
3 feet away from a fireplace,
wood stove or space heater.

Fire Services— Fire Prevention week as a busy week for our Fire Services Department. We had one Officer in Kitasoo and two officers in Seton working with the communities. The little known fact about Fire Prevention Week is that most do not know is that Fire Prevention Week falls on Oct 9th every year. Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public

informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years.

FNESS endeavours to work with all 203 BC First Nation’s communities in respect with fire prevention initiatives. FNESS has attended many First Nations’ schools in the third quarter to deliver fire and life safety messages and we also saw an increase in the number of communities that participated in our Public Fire Prevention Workshops. FNESS officers and staff also had the dubious honour of going through the many posters received from schools across BC in order to pick first, second, and third place winners for the Poster Contest.

Photo 1: FNESS Fire Officer Emerson showing Xaxlip youth Firefighter turnout gear

Photo2: Home Inspection training with Kitasoo FD Officers: Spencer Mason and Shane Robinson



The FNESS Forest Fuel Management

The Forest Fuel Management Department (FFM) had a very busy 3rd quarter managing the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative program (SWPI), Fire Smart, and implementation of the new funding opportunity - Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development of Canada (AANDC) Wildfire Prevention Initiative; On-Reserve Forest Fuel Operational Treatment’s and Wildfire Prevention Workshops. During the 3rd quarter the following SWPI projects were completed, and below is the status for applications received for the October 2nd, 2015 application in-take:

SWPI 3rd Quarter <i>Completed</i> Activities		
Stage	SWPI Projects Completed	
Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)	No CWPP completions this quarter	\$ 0.00
Prescription Treatment	1	\$ 9,698.79
Operational Treatment	1	\$ 168,710.00
	Total:	\$178,408.79

SWPI 3rd Quarter Applications Recommended for Approval		
Stage	SWPI Projects Received	
Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)	4	\$ 32,000.00
Prescription Development	1	\$ 5,024.25
Operational Treatment	4	\$ 762,615.00
	Total:	\$799,639.25

The FFM participated in the fall face to face Provincial Forest Fuel Management Working Group (FNESS, BC Wildfire Service, and Union of BC Municipalities) in Victoria BC, on November 23,24,25, 2015. The working group discussed current funding, 2016 SWPI Guidelines, applications, reporting, revisions and updates.

Landscape Fire Management Planning is an integrated approach that recognizes and considers risks of wildland fire in resource management decisions at all levels. The major focus of Landscape Fire Planning is to recognize and consider forest resource objectives while limiting wildfire impacts to help protect life, property and the natural and cultural values which exist throughout the forest landscape. First Nations Emergency Services, Forest Fuels Management Department is working with BC Wildfire Service on two major project initiatives to support the development and implementation of Landscape Fire Management Plans.

1. The First Nations Values Data Assembly Project initiative will identify, assemble and assess risk of First Nations values which could be impacted by fire. Additionally, the project will assist with development of management guidelines and decision support tools for response and planning.
2. Landscape Fuel Break and Fire Management Zonation project initiative focuses on the identification of priority areas for development of fuel breaks and associated management guidelines to protect First Nation communities from wildfire. This will provide guidance for Fuel hazard and maintenance treatment over the short, mid and longer-term.

National FireSmart Canada, Community Recognition Program:

Communication and planning is underway to assist First Nations and local governments to engage in the Fire Smart recognition program. The goal of progressing the First Nations, and local government into the recognition program is the objective for this fiscal year. Brenden Mercer TFT, Forest Fuel Management Department, attended and completed the Local Fire Smart Representative workshop held in Burnaby BC November 17, 18, 2015.

Jonas Joe RFT, Darryl Adrian, and Norman Berg whom work for the BC Wildfire Service during the wildfire season have rejoined us for the winter to assist with the delivery of the FireSmart Canada Community recognition program through AANDC. We are actively engaged with First Nations to support them receive the community recognition status.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) 2015-2016 Wildfire Prevention Initiative:

The FNESS FFM Department accessed funds for an application-based initiative for on-reserve fuel reduction

This initiative is modeled on Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) and the Aboriginal Forestry Initiative (AFI)

The Initiative will be developed and coordinated by the (FFM) Department, whom will be responsible

for monitoring and reporting on the results of this initiative
Forest Fuel Management Department (FNESS - FFM), will be delivering six (6) regional Wildfire Prevention Workshops.

The one-day workshops will provide an introduction to Provincial and Federal Wildfire Prevention Initiatives:

- On – Reserve Forest Fuel Reduction Initiative
- Federal Timber Permitting
- Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI)
- Landscape Fire Management Planning
- Fire Smart Canada Community Recognition Program

The workshops will include guest speakers from FNESS – FFM, British Columbia Wildfire Service, FireSmart Canada Provincial/Territorial Representative for BC; and Natural Resources Specialist, Lands and Economic Development, AANDC, BC Region.

Thanks

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**First Nations'
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