

FNES QUARTERLY **Responder**

Issue 16
FOURTH QUARTER
January • February • March • 2016

*First Nations' Emergency
Services Society of BC*



Kidde Canada's Patrick Follriott at the booth during the Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference

SAFETY MESSAGE

Prevent Cooking Fires – from National Fire Prevention Association

Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires in Canada and the U.S., according to the National Fire Prevention Association. Most of these fires can be prevented by following simple fire safety steps.

- **Never leave cooking unattended.**
- **Keep the cooking area clean. Wipe appliances and surfaces after cooking to prevent grease buildup.**
- **Do not store flammable objects near the stove as they can easily catch fire.**
- **Wear short sleeves or close-fitting sleeves when cooking.**
- **Do not overheat cooking oil.**
- **Never leave hot oil or grease laden foods unattended while cooking.**
- **Keep children one meter away from the stove while cooking.**
- **Turn pot handles inwards toward the centre of the stove.**

What to do if a cooking fire occurs

- **Put a lid on it. If a pan catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan using a high cuff oven mitt and turn the stove burner off. Do NOT carry the burning pan to a sink or outside.**
- **Oven or Microwave fire: Keep the door shut and turn off the heat. Call the Fire Department if the flames do not go out immediately.**
- **Never pour water on a grease fire. Water will cause the grease fire to flare up.**
- **Keep a fire extinguisher at the kitchen door. Know how to use your extinguisher. Only use it if the fire is small and contained, you have a clear escape route and the fire department has been called.**
- **Know the emergency number of your local fire department.**

Fire Services– 4th Quarter Newsletter

The fourth quarter was busy with activity as we wrapped up the fiscal year end delivering our fire service programs. FNESS has delivered 129 workshops in total throughout the 2015-2016 year. The table below breakdown of how many times each workshop was delivered throughout British Columbia’s First Nation Communities by FNESS’ fire services department.

| Fire Services Programs | Number of programs delivered |
|---|------------------------------|
| Fire Protection Governance | 27 |
| Home Fire Safety Inspection Education | 21 |
| Development of Home Fire Safety Inspection Programs and Champions | 3 |
| Public Fire Prevention Education | 24 |
| School Fire Prevention Education | 16 |
| Development of School Fire Education Champions | 3 |
| Provincial/National Poster Contest | 1 |
| Youth Initiative | 2 |
| Capacity Assessments and Training Plans for Fire Departments | 0 |
| Fire Fighter Training | 5 |
| Fire Chief Development Training | 1 |
| National Fire Fighter Competition | 1 |
| Provincial Fire Fighter Competition | 1 |
| Joint FNESS-JIBC Firefighter Certification Training Program | 1 |
| Partnerships with Provincial Fire Protection Agencies | 3 |
| Partnerships with Municipal Services Providers | 4 |
| Fire Services Advisory Support | 11 |
| Fire Services Communications | 5 |
| Total Deliveries | 129 |

We realize the tremendous success with our new Youth Initiative programs. In the previous quarter during the month of November, FNESS held our first Fire Prevention Boot Camp for youth at Seabird Island. We worked with the community (Fire Department, School, and partners) to deliver the two day workshop, amidst a severe windstorm that knocked out power to most of the region. This was a great experience that assisted us to work with the youth at the Gathering Our Voices conference in Victoria during the Month of March.

At the Gathering our Voices Youth Conference, FNESS worked with the Victoria Fire Department, with support from Kidde Canada where youth had the opportunity to actively participate with the instructors as they learned some firefighter skills, home fire safety messages, and heard about careers/opportunities in the fire service. It was an exciting two days that saw 77 youth participate and complete the workshop.

As we wrapped up the fourth quarter, we were actively planning for the new fiscal year ahead and look forward to working with any communities this year. We encourage all to contact us at our Vancouver office with your questions and/or concerns in regards to fire prevention, fire safety programs overall. Our toll free number: 1 888 822 3388 or email us at info@fness.bc.ca. We aim to serve First Nations in developing and sustaining safer and healthier communities.

Photos by FNESS:

Photo 1: Youth at Gathering Our Voices youth Boot Camp at the Victoria Fire Department hall



Forest Fuel Management - 4th Quarter Newsletter

The Forest Fuel Management Department (FFM) had a very busy 4th quarter managing the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative program (SWPI), FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program, and completion of the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development of Canada (AANDC) Wildfire Prevention Initiative. We also completed a forestry skills based training initiative with the Aboriginal Skills Education & Training Strategy (ASETS).

During the 4th quarter the following SWPI projects were completed, and applications received for the January 29th, 2016 application in-take:

| SWPI 4th Quarter <i>Completed</i> Activities | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Stage | SWPI Projects Completed | |
| Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) | 1 | \$ 8,000.00 |
| Forest Fuel Prescription | 1 | \$ 10,649.68 |
| Operational Fuel Treatment | 2 | \$ 146,955.00 |
| | Total: | \$ 165,604.68 |

| SWPI 4th Quarter Applications <i>Recommended for Approval</i> | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Stage | SWPI Projects Received | |
| Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) - Approved | 2 | \$ 16,000.00 |
| Prescription Development - Pending | 4 | Application Review |
| Operational Treatment | 0 | \$ 0.00 |
| | Total: | \$16,000.00 |

The FFM department is also working with the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative Working Group

(FNESS, BC Wildfire Service, and Union of BC Municipalities), on the 2016-17 SWPI Guidelines, applications, reporting, revisions and updates. We have also supported UBCM with FireSmart community grants through communications with First Nations applicants. 16 First Nations communities received FireSmart grants through UBCM.

Photo by FNESS: Balfour Fire Smart Community Recognition Day



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.

FFM is working with BC Wildfire Service on two major project initiatives to support the development and implementation of Landscape Fire Management Plans.

To support this work, 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. A review of the data with FN communities covered by the Rocky Mountain Landscape Fire Management:

1. Mountain Landscape Fire Management is planned for 2016/2017 fiscal year. The data and associated management guidelines will be reviewed for relevancy, accuracy and gaps with the Akisqnuq, Aq'am, Tobacco Plains and Shuswap Bands.
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. Mapping of preliminary zones within and adjacent to four First Nation bands covered by the Rocky Mountain Landscape Fire Management plan have been completed. The mapping has been reviewed and endorsed by First Nations representatives, BC Wildfire services and Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff. Next phase of the project focuses on integration of the zonation within new Community Wildfire Protection Plans and identification of management objectives within the zones.

National FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program:

We have been very active the last quarter assisting First Nations and local governments to engage in the

FireSmart community recognition program. The goal of progressing First Nations, and local government into the FireSmart Canada Community recognition program was the objective for this year.

For this fiscal year we have had the following receiving FireSmart Canada Community recognition

status: *New FireSmart Canada Community Recognition* communities:

1. Skeetchestn Indian Band – Received 2015 recognition status.
2. Xaxli'p First Nation - 2016 recognition status, pending approval from FireSmart Canada.
3. Stswecem'c-Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek, Dog Creek Indian Band) - 2016 recognition status, pending approval from FireSmart Canada.
4. Nazko First Nation - 2016 recognition status, pending approval from FireSmart Canada.
5. Tsalalh Seton Lake Indian Band - 2016 recognition status, pending approval from FireSmart Canada.
6. Little Shuswap Indian Band - 2016 recognition status, pending approval from FireSmart Canada.

Renewal FireSmart Canada Community recognition communities:

1. Xwisten (Bridge River Band) – 2016 recognition status pending approval from FireSmart Canada.
2. T'it'qet First Nation – Received 2016 recognition status.
3. Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation - Received 2016 recognition status.
4. Esk'etemc First Nation - Received 2016 recognition status.
5. Nooaitch Indian Band - 2016 recognition status pending approval from FireSmart Canada.
6. Skeetchestn Indian Band –2016 renewal recognition status pending approval from FireSmart Canada.

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

- The 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)

20 First Nations were to complete on reserve forest fuel reduction operational fuel treatment projects, in total 201.1 ha's of treatment was completed.

Wildfire Prevention Workshops were delivered: Kamloops, Williams Lake, Cranbrook, Vancouver, Smithers and Fort St John.

The one-day workshops provided 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
- FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program

The workshops were facilitated by FNESS and included guest speakers from: British Columbia Wildfire Service, FireSmart Canada Provincial/Territorial Representative for BC; and Natural Resources Specialist, Lands and Economic Development, AANDC, BC Region.

Photo by FNESS: SWPI 556 Panoramic – Lower Nicola SWPI Inspection with Rob Mitchell and Todd Chamberlin
LNIB Resource Department



Aboriginal Skills Education & Training Strategy (ASETS)

FFM completed a forestry skills based training initiative with the Aboriginal Skills Education & Training Strategy (ASETS). Various forestry based training was conducted in Merritt and Lytton BC, to assist First Nations to increase their skills, capacity and employability to secure employment during fire season.

Lytton Training delivered:

Course Dates: Feb 29 - March 22, 2016

Students: 12

Total Courses: 13

Merritt training delivered:

Course Dates: Mar 7 - March 22, 2016

Students: 8

Total Courses: 17

The Kamloops FFM Department office has moved to A 274 Halston Road, Kamloops BC.



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