

FNESS QUARTERLY **Responder**

Issue 14
SECOND QUARTER
July • August • September • 2015

First Nations' Emergency
Services Society of BC

SAFETY MESSAGE

Prevent Cooking Fires

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.

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 – In the Second Quarter there has been a steady execution of delivering the Fire Protection Governance workshop. This workshop is one of FNESS's higher level workshops as it places an emphasis on the importance of working with First Nations' communities to see the development of a Fire Protection Bylaw and/or a Fire Protection Band Council Resolution. Community leaders and management have a significant role to play in enhancing and maintaining the health and safety of community members. They must also consider the protection of property and equipment and ensure that effective preparedness plans and resources are in place in the event of emergencies. This workshop provides expert training on the relationship between good governance and Fire Prevention and Protection. A focus is on Fire Prevention and how to attend to the fire hazardous situations in the community, along with leadership's responsibilities, and liabilities. The roles of Fire Departments are discussed and we will examine the key responsibilities and concerns that surround Fire Protection. This Quarter we have seen (insert number) communities that received the workshop. This is exciting news

because once the communities take the workshop and move forward with the development of their Fire Protection Bylaw/BCR, the community is eligible to receive further training in fire prevention initiatives from FNESS.



Photo1: National Fire Competition



Photo 2: Toquaht – Fire Protection Governance

The FNESS Forest Fuel Management Department had a busy, active summer coordinating the delivery of the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI), Fire Smart Canada Community Recognition Program.

These programs provide support for First Nations Communities to assist with education, awareness and access to resources to reduce the threat and loss of community assets due to wildfires.

Training that FNESS provided over the winter and spring to support employment for First Nations community members, has proved to be beneficial as many students who received certificate's for Fire suppression, Level 1 First aid –Transportation Endorsement and Wildlife Danger Tree Assessor Course and other related forestry training. A majority of students who completed the training received employment fighting wildfires this summer, in various aspects with contractors, and continue to be employed through the Wildfire Management Branch, as this was a very busy year for wildfires.

Through the SWPI program FNESS assisted in First Nations receiving approval for funds to complete Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Forest Fuel Program Prescriptions, and Operational Fuel Treatments Projects. As of August 4 First Nations were approved for Community Wildfire Protection Plans, 2 Forest Fuel Prescriptions, and 3 Operational Fuel Treatments Projects. We are also assisting community's complete active projects through SWPI.

FNESS assists with the Fire Smart Canada Community recognition program, to assist First Nations navigate through the program requirements to receive recognition status; July and August are generally very dry and hot months, so the fire smart program is not that active. Once the temperatures and weather changes, the program activity picks up. FNESS also assists local government and regional districts to access the Fire Smart Program; we had a very successful site visit to Piers Island, presented the 8 recognition steps and conducted a community hazard assessment.

Jeff Eustache TFT, Manager



Photo 1: Opening of Bella Bella Fire Hall

Photo 2: C. Mackenzie & R. Mitchell – Fuel treatment visit



First Nations' Emergency Services Society
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

NORTH VANCOUVER OFFICE
102 - 70 Orwell Street,
North Vancouver, BC V7J 3R5
Tel 604.669.7305
Fax 604.669.9832
Toll Free 1.888.822.3388
Email info@fness.bc.ca
www.fness.bc.ca

KAMLOOPS OFFICE
712 Mount Paul Way,
Kamloops, BC V2H 1B5
Tel 250.377.7600
Fax 250.377.7610
Toll Free 1.888.388.4431
Email ffminfo@fness.bc.ca
www.fness.bc.ca