

**Issue: 40**

July 2018



**First Nations'  
Emergency Services Society**

O F B R I T I S H C O L U M B I A

## Safety Message

To improve the chances of a structure surviving a wildfire, use minimal flammable materials to create a three-meter buffer around it. This defensible space reduces the likelihood of direct flame contact with the structure and decreases the intensity of radiant heat on the structure.

Compliments of PreparedBC

## First Nations Emergency Services Society of BC

### FNESS Quarterly Responder

#### Fire Services

As temperatures continuously increase during the summer months, we all need to be aware of the dangers of wildland-urban interface fires. Many of our communities are located in or near densely-forested areas.

To minimize the hazard of living in such an area, we need to continue working on FireSmart initiatives such as keeping the area around our homes free from brush and debris to significantly decrease the chance of losing them to a wildland-urban interface fire.

Here are some quick and easy things you can do:

1. Keep woodpiles well away from all homes and structures.
2. Trim any limbs on trees hanging over the house.
3. Remove excess vegetation near the home.
4. Clear gutters of leaves and debris.
5. Create a three-meter, fire-free (non-combustible) area on all sides of your home.

For the month of July, we have engaged with a number of communities that are following the Tiered approach:

#### Tier 1: Home Fire Protection

We have engaged with First Nation communities to deliver fire and life safety messages that bring awareness about the reality of fire (for example, the minimum time needed to escape a house fire safely), fire extinguisher training, home escape planning, and smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.

#### Tier 2: Community Fire Protection

We have followed up with communities that we previously visited to support the designated community champion who is supported by the Chief and Council. Projects that the champion may work on during the year include: distribute fire and life safety messages, and hold public engagement workshops to promote awareness on fire and life safety, home inspections, and FireSmart activities.

#### Tier 3: Fire Departments

FNESS took a regional approach and held training on Seabird Island and in Penelakut. Participants received training in Officer Development 1065. This training provides crucial skills to leaders who are in charge of the success of the fire department and personnel within the department.

For information about the current wildfire situation: [Current Wildfire Situation](#)

**Report Wildfires**

Call \*5555 or

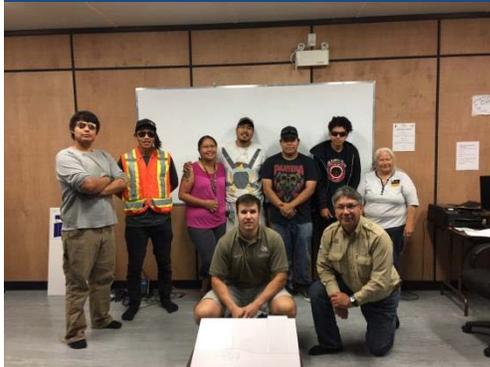
1 800 663-5555

## FireSmart Canada Manuals

FireSmart Information & Resources |  
FireSmart Canada



BC Wildfire Service Open House in the Bulkley-Nechako area



Fort Babine & Tachet FireSmart Presentation & Hazard Assessment

## Forest Fuel Management:

### FireSmart 2018

The Lower Similkameen Band was awarded the 2018 FireSmart Canada \$500 Wildfire Prevention Grant at the Wildfire Community Preparedness event. The community received some great gifts, including the table top banner, shirts and more from FireSmart Canada. Pictured L-R Joleen Terbasket, Rhonda Terbasket, and Trudy Pederson.



## Emergency Management:

### Southwest Partnerships Table (Whistler)

The EMBC-FNESS Southwest Partnership Table was held in Whistler on July 5 & 6 at the Squamish-Lil'wat Cultural Centre with participation from about 20 First Nations. The purpose of the province-wide engagement sessions is to allow communities to provide input on the delivery of emergency management services within each region and to identify ways in which FNESS and EMBC can build support for long-term resilience in emergency management. The two-day meeting included collaborative round tables and building a Terms of Reference that focused on the top priorities in the SW Region identified by communities. Participants recognized the value of these meetings for networking, information



Brenden Mercer, RFT FFM FNESS visited  
Murphy Patrick, Natural Resource Liaison at  
Lake Babine Nation



Burns Lake Community Forest

sharing, partnerships building, and learning more about available

resources, training, and funding. At the end of the session, everyone set goals to accomplish prior to the next SW Region partnership table, which will be occurring in Fall 2018.



# Contact Us

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## Emergency Management continue:

### AFN Elections & AGA 2018

The AFN Elections & AGA 2018 was held at the Vancouver Convention Centre from July 24-26 this year. The event brought thousands of people to Vancouver over the three-day meeting. FNESS participated in the Circle of Trade by hosting an information booth. Thank you to everyone who visited our booth!



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