



Fire Prevention Week in First Nations' Communities

Dear Fire Chief,

Sadly, fire losses (deaths, injuries, and destruction of property) in First Nations' communities, particularly those on remote First Nations' lands, far exceed those in comparable off-reserve communities. And our children, under the age of five, and the elderly are at the greatest risk.

It is First Nations' Emergency Services Society's goal to assist communities in reducing these alarming statistics in the province of British Columbia. Through prevention and education programs, such as our yearly Fire Prevention Week (FPW) campaign, we can promote fire safe behaviours by everyone in all communities. This year's date for FPW is October 9 – 15 and the theme is '*Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape*'™.

Our FPW campaign includes materials for Band Offices, Fire Departments, Schools, and families. We want to reach as many people as possible to hopefully begin to shift that fire loss data I talked about above. This year's FPW theme puts the spotlight on getting out of the home quickly should fire strike; critical to reducing loss of life.

I am asking for your help with this campaign and have included some resources on how your department may want to highlight FPW in your community. The FNESS website has a new [Fire Prevention Week page](#) where you can access support videos, materials, and information on our school program. If you have fire department members that would like to deliver presentations to schools or to other groups in your community, FNESS can provide support, training, and resources.

I want to thank you for your ongoing efforts in community safety. As a community leader you play a significant role in the health and safety of your citizens and fire department members.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email the Fire Services Department at fireservices@fness.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Emerson Adolph
Fire Services Officer
First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC