



Fire Prevention Week in First Nations' Communities

Dear Chief and Council Members,

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 – 15th and the theme is 'Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape'™.

Our FPW campaign provides resources and materials for Band Offices, Fire Departments, Schools, and families. The FNESS website has a new [Fire Prevention Week page](#) where you can access videos and materials to support your FPW efforts. We are asking everyone in the community to work closely with each other, with community safety champions and with FNESS, to keep our families safe.

FNESS would like to ask you to consider officially proclaiming Fire Prevention Week. This can be seen as the beginning of an on-going community fire prevention and fire preparedness activity. A copy of the proclamation is included in this package.

We are also asking that you continue to access FNESS's many programs that support community safety. Our smoke alarm and fire extinguisher program are particularly important because it ensures that all homes in First Nations' communities have this important lifesaving equipment.

I want to thank you for your ongoing efforts in community safety. As community leaders you play a significant role in the health and safety of your members. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email the Fire Services Department at fireservices@fness.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Nathan Combs

Fire Services Manager
First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC