



## Fire Prevention Week in First Nations' Communities

Dear Teacher,

Fire Prevention Week 2022 is October 9-16<sup>th</sup>, and First Nations' Emergency Services Society of British Columbia (FNESS) is excited to provide you with some FPW resources to use in your classrooms this year.

My name is Alisha Juma, and I am the Fire Services Coordinator at FNESS. Helping children and families stay safe from fire is our priority and with your assistance we can really make a difference.

There are 3 parts to your FPW Teacher Package: Classroom Activities, Family Homework Assignment, and Prizes. All resource materials, including a personalized video, can be found on our [website](#).

### **1. Classroom Materials**

- Resources in your package focus on this year's FPW theme, 'Fire Won't Wait, Plan Your Escape'. This theme emphasizes the importance of families getting out quickly and safely should there be a fire in their home.
- Classroom materials target children ages K-12 and are broken down into the following age categories for ease of delivery: K- grade 1, grades 2-4, grades 5-7, teens.
- There is one activity sheet and one quiz for each age group complete with answer keys. Both can be used as an individual or group activity, however we have found that completing the quiz as a class can create great discussion and clear understanding of correct responses.

### **2. Family Homework Assignment**

- Fire safety at home is a family affair! Parents and caregivers play an important role in ensuring their homes and families are safe. For this reason, your package also includes a Family Homework Assignment.
- The homework contains a letter to parents and caregivers, a home escape planning grid, and exit signs to be posted in bedrooms/sleeping areas. We are asking families to plan their way out of their home should a fire break out. By developing a home escape plan and practicing it, all family members should be safe and accounted for outside the home!
- We are also requesting that parents and caregivers make sure their home has working smoke alarms so that there is an early warning should a fire occur.
- Once the Family Homework Assignment is completed, families are asked to sign the letter and have their child return it to you at school so they can be entered into a prize draw.

### 3. Prizes, Prizes, Prizes

- School Recognition – Schools participating in Fire Prevention Week activities will be recognized with a framed *Fire Safety Education School Certificate*, presented by FNESS following Fire Prevention Week activities.
- Family Prizes – All families completing and returning their signed Homework Assignment letter will be entered into a FNESS prize draw. The Office of the Fire Commissioner prize draw entry form is included in your package and will be the responsibility of the family to submit.
- Teacher Recognition – Keeping children safe from fire requires a team effort, and we are so glad you are part of the team! FNESS would like to acknowledge your participation in Fire Prevention Week activities with a *Fire Safety Education Certificate* for your classroom. You will also be entered into a draw for prizes that support the purchase of teaching materials for the important work you do.

*Note: We are in the process of finalizing Family Prizes.*

In closing, I want to thank you for educating children and families in your community about fire safe behaviours. Sadly, fire losses (deaths, injuries, and destruction of property) in First Nation communities, particularly those on remote First Nations communities, far exceed those in comparable off-reserve communities. But together, through education and other fire prevention practices, we can begin to change that.

If you have any questions or need support, please don't hesitate to contact me at [ajuma@fness.bc.ca](mailto:ajuma@fness.bc.ca). I'm here to help!

For more Fire Prevention Week information and resources please visit our website at [www.fness.bc.ca](http://www.fness.bc.ca).

Sincerely,



Alisha Juma  
Fire Services Coordinator  
First Nations' Emergency Services Society of British Columbia