



Wildfire Resiliency Literacy Kit

Welcome to the Wildfire Resiliency Literacy Kit! The content of this kit was created in partnership with the Thompson-Nicola Regional Library and FireSmart™ BC.

This kit is designed for children between the ages of 3 and 8 and aims to provide children with a way to explore and learn about the topic of wildfire resiliency.

Wildfires are a real concern in our province. It is likely that many children will be directly or indirectly impacted by wildfires. We hope that this kit will help children and families to be better prepared if they do experience a wildfire.

The materials in this kit will provide children with increased knowledge of how wildfires happen and understanding of how communities and environments recover following a wildfire. The kit will also provide a safe way for children to explore the emotions they may experience in the event of a wildfire.

Resiliency is the ability to cope with the mental and emotional stress of a crisis. Through the learning and exploration in this kit, children will be more resilient in the face of wildfires.

These literacy kits also introduce Ember, the FireSmart Fox, who is here to share her knowledge with all about how to be FireSmart!

Each literacy kit includes:

- Ten books (hardcover and paperback)
- Ember Stuffed Animal
- FireSmart Memory Game
- FireSmart Activities

FireSmart BC

What is FireSmart BC?

FireSmart BC is a brand owned by FireSmart Canada that includes a comprehensive set of tools and guidance on how to undertake and implement community-based wildfire prevention and mitigation initiatives. FireSmart BC is about living with wildfire and managing it on our landscapes. FireSmart methods have been demonstrated time and time again to reduce the risk of losses, even under the most extreme fire conditions.

The FireSmart program is directed by the BC FireSmart Committee (BCFSC) which is composed of twelve agencies. The goal of the BCFSC is to collaboratively maintain and improve the delivery of the FireSmart BC program to better support the wildfire preparedness, prevention, and mitigation in BC.



Who is Ember?

Meet Ember, FireSmart's official mascot. Ember, of the red fox species, is an effective messenger because of her unique characteristics, which include alertness, adaptability, intelligence, and community mindedness. She lives in the forest and teaches people how to be FireSmart.

Books

Efforts were made to select books that are suitable for children ages 3-8, but some books may be more suitable for younger or older children. Each child develops at their own pace, but we trust in your ability to decide which books are suitable for your child(ren). Often, a child will let you know if a book is suitable by their reaction to it.

Given that some of the content in these books is heavier, we've included quick notes about each of the books to help you guide your conversation with your child(ren).

Cedric the Cedar

In a fun twist, this book about fire and fire management features only non-human characters. Cedric the Cedar acts as a fire control officer for his forest, and with the help of his animal friends, shows how firefighters manage a wildfire and how fires make forests healthier. Also included in this one is a fun section of facts, science experiments, and craft ideas. A great pick for slightly older readers, or to use in a classroom setting.

The Charcoal Forest

Focusing entirely on the aftermath of a forest fire, this non-fiction book for older readers explores the new habitat that is created in the wake of a fire. Readers will get an in-depth look at 20 species of animals and plants that contribute to the renewal of a "charcoal forest" in the northern Rocky Mountains.

Forest of Fire

Readers are taken on a full circle journey from looking at the effects of humans on a forest, through a wildfire, the fighting of the fire, and then the return of humans and regrowth and regeneration of the forest. The large text in this one will be friendly to older readers who want to practice their own reading skills.

The Fox and the Forest Fire

When a forest fire happens, a young boy must evacuate, leaving behind his new home and the fox he's become friends with. But over time, readers see that the forest will regrow, the animals return, and friendship is something that a forest fire can't destroy. Written by a volunteer firefighter, this book is all about resilience, and has a perfect tone for younger readers.



Fire! The Renewal of a Forest

Ideal for older readers, this book explains that fires are a natural part of a forest's cycle and can be helpful for the forest. The factual descriptions of how fire acts as a force for renewal in forests may be comforting for some readers. There's also a fun element of animals and insects to search and find in each of the illustrations.

Firefighter Duckies

Need a pick-me-up after a heavier story? The Firefighter Duckies are here to help! With bold, fun illustrations, these duckies are strong, brave, kind, and completely fun.

Hello Tree

From the perspective of a single ponderosa pine, readers will see the complete cycle of a forest fire, from the point it breaks out to when communities and the environment start rebuilding afterwards. This one might be upsetting for some younger readers, as the tree remains fixed in place when it's human and animal friends flee the fire. The strong message of renewal at the end though shows that fires are survivable, and life carries on.

Little Smokey

When a forest fire breaks out, readers learn how each different plane plays a role in fighting the fire, and the importance of teamwork, bravery, patience, and determination. This is a great pick for younger readers, or those who want to learn more about the process of fighting a fire.

We Will Live in this Forest Again

This beautiful and well written story shows a forest fire breaking out, forest animals fleeing, and the eventual return and renewal of life after the fire. Some parts are quite stark and may be upsetting for younger readers, but there is a very strong message of resilience throughout the story, focused on the repeated message: We will live in this forest again.

Wildfire!

With lots of great repetition, colourful illustrations, the tone in this book makes it a great one to share with young readers. Even better, it also contains a very accurate depiction of how forest fires are fought, and a focus on how life continues after a fire.

These ideas are suggestions. You may choose to use some of the ideas or find different ones from other sources. The main idea is to have fun with your child. Having fun will ensure an enjoyable learning experience which will help to develop a love for learning in your child.

Please make sure all items are placed in the bin before returning it to the library.

Crafts

Pretend Campfire:

Materials:

- 4 paper towel rolls (or 8 toilet paper rolls)
- Brown construction paper or a brown felt pen
- Red, orange and yellow construction paper
- Red gift tissue paper (optional)
- Hot glue gun



Instructions:

- Step 1: wrap your paper towel rolls in brown construction paper or colour them brown if they aren't already. Add some dark squiggle lines all over them to make them appear a bit more "loggy". If you are using toilet paper rolls glue two together to make 4 longer logs total.
- Step 2: Plug in your hot glue gun (we recommend adults do this part) and begin gluing your logs together so they are layered like a campfire.
- Step 3: Create flames by using red tissue paper (find a section you would like the flames and glue the tissue paper to that area) and flame cut outs from the construction paper.

That's it, you are all done! Find a bare spot on the ground to set your pretend fire. Use this campfire to act out some campfire safety tips. Use the pretend fire to act out some fire safety plans and discuss wildfire safety including the following:

- Is an adult monitoring the campfire?
- Are there any burn bans or restrictions? (Scan the QR Code)
- Is there anything flammable around the campfire that should be moved?
- Is it too windy to have a campfire?
- Is there a hand tool and water nearby to put the fire completely out?



See Fire Bans and Restrictions:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/fire-bans-and-restrictions>



Snacks - Firefighter Cookbook:

Try some firefighter snacks! Your child(ren) can eat the same foods that firefighters eat while working on wildfires. These snacks are also perfect to put in a grab-and-go bag.

Firefighter Cookbook

Try some firefighter snacks with your child(ren)! Your child(ren) can eat the same foods that firefighters eat while working on wildfires. These snacks are also perfect to put in a grab and go bag. Try it today with your child(ren) to get them excited about eating like a firefighter.

JJ's favourite fire line meal is canned chili. When he is working on wildfires, he organizes where the air tankers and helicopters go.

Max eats crackers and peanut butter when she is working in the forest. This makes her strong to use her chainsaw to clean up overgrown forests and help prevent wildfires.

Nick eats canned tuna with pre-cooked, dehydrated rice, so he has energy to get water from the lakes to the tops of the mountains when he works on wildfires.

When there is a wildfire, **Sarah** tells the community where the fire is and how the firefighters, aircraft, and heavy equipment are working to put it out. After, she snacks on dried fruit like mangos or raisins.



Learn more about FireSmart at firesmartbc.ca/ember

Interested in hearing a story from JJ, Max, Nick and Sarah while munching on their favourite wildfire snacks? Check out Storytime With Ember!

Scan the QR Code next to each picture:





Activities

Activity 1: Grab and Go Bags

Help your child(ren) prepare a “grab and go bag” for themselves. Grab and go bags are small emergency kits that are prepared in case of an evacuation. A child’s school backpack would be a good fit for these materials during the summer season. Things to include in a child’s grab and go bag are:

- Non-perishable, ready to eat food and water
- Flashlight with batteries
- Small first aid kit and personal medications
- Personal toiletries and items, such as an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses
- Seasonal clothing and an emergency blanket
- Whistle
- A couple comfort items or games



We also recommend adults take the time to prepare a grab and go bag with the following:

- Non-perishable, ready to eat food and water
- Phone Charger and Battery Bank
- Small battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Battery-powered or hand-crank flashlight
- Extra batteries
- Small first-aid kit and personal medications
- Personal toiletries and items, such as an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses
- Copy of your emergency plan
- Copies of family’s important documents, such as insurance papers and identification
- Cash in small bills
- Local map with your family meeting place identified
- Seasonal clothing and an emergency blanket
- Pen and notepad
- Whistle

To learn more visit: <http://preparedbc.ca/grab-and-goand-go-bag>





Activity 2: FireSmart Kids Home Assessment

Complete the FireSmart Kids Home Assessment found on the next page or by using the QR code.

- Look around a home or structure to see what areas wildfire resilient and what areas could use mitigation.
- After the assessment is complete, consider ways that you could reduce the wildfire risk around your home and be prepared for wildfire season.

Some simple free activities adults can do with child(ren) to reduce wildfire risk is to clean up around the home, school, or daycare. Some of these activities could include:

- Cleaning up pine needles and tree branches from the yard
- Moving firewood 10 meters away from the home
- Removing highly flammable bark mulch from your landscaping
- Keeping the gutters on the edge of the roof clean
- Pruning the lower branches of trees to 2 meters
- Removing any windblown leaves and vegetation from under your deck
- Trimming grass shorter than 10 centimeters

To see the Kid's Home Assessment, visit:
<https://firesmartbc.ca/resource/firesmart-kids-home-assessment/>

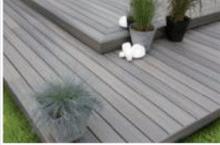




How FireSmart Is Your Home?

Use this quick assessment to see how at risk your home would be during a wildfire.

Circle the image/description that best describes your home and add the numbers to find your Hazard Level.

1.	What is your roof made of?	Asphalt Shingles 1 	Tile Shingles 0 	Wood Shake 2 	Metal Roof 0 
2.	What is the outside of your house made from?	Vinyl Siding 2 	Wood Siding 2 	Stucco/Cement Board 0 	Metal Siding 0 
3.	What is your deck made from? Does it have a skirt?	Fire Resistant Material 0 	Wood Closed In 0 	Wood Open Bottom 1 	
4.	Are your eaves open or closed? <small>*eaves are the underside of your roof overhang</small>		Open Eaves 2		Closed Eaves 0
5.	Is your roof clean? Are the eavestroughs cleared?		Eavestrough filled with leaves 2		Clean roof with no debris 0



6.	Do you have combustibles within 10m of your home?	<p>Yes 2</p> 	<p>No 0</p>	*combustibles are anything that will burn in a fire especially: firewood, lumber and gas powered equipment	
7.	What kind of ground cover do you have within 10m of your home?	<p>Cut green grass up to house 0</p> 	<p>Shrubs or wild grass up to the house 1</p> 	<p>Logs and branches on the ground 2</p> 	
8.	What kind of trees are near your house (<10m)	<p>Coniferous (Needle leaf) 2</p> 	<p>Coniferous and Deciduous 2</p> 	<p>Deciduous (Broadleaf) 0</p> 	
9.	What kind of trees are 10m-30m from your home?	<p>Conifer 2</p>	<p>Mixed Wood 1</p>	<p>Deciduous 0</p>	
OTHER				YES	NO
10.	Ladder Fuels	Are the trees 10m-30m from your home pruned to 2m above the ground?		0	1
11.	Fire Fighting Equipment	Do you have a sprinkler, ladder, shovel, water source available?		0	1
12.	Address	Is your address visible for emergency vehicles?		0	1
13.	Driveway Access (Acreage Only)	Could a fire truck use your driveway?		0	1
14.	Evacuation Plan	Do you have an evacuation plan?		0	1
Hazard Level - Add up all your points circled above and see where your home rates.				Points Page 1	
				Points Page 2	
				Total Points	
<p>Low < 5 points</p> <p>Medium 5 - 10 points</p> <p>High > 10 points</p>		<p>If your score is more than 10 points, what can you do to make your home safer in a wildfire?</p>			

Visit FireSmartBC.ca or FireSmartCanada.ca for more information.
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