

# FireSmart BC Library Program: Information Sheet

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This document provides an overview on the FireSmart BC Library Program and the steps FireSmart Coordinators should take to successfully implement it in their community libraries.

## Program Overview

**What is it?** A literacy program to help young children understand wildfires in British Columbia and how they can help create more resilient communities.

### Why is it important?

- Wildfires are common in BC
- Many families are affected
- Children need to learn about wildfires

### What does the program offer?

1. Resources to talk about wildfires
2. Information on wildfire preparedness
3. Books explaining how wildfires happen
4. Stories about community recovery after wildfires
5. Activities to explore feelings about wildfires

### Goals:

1. Increase children's knowledge about wildfires
2. Help youth understand wildfire recovery
3. Provide a safe way to explore emotions
4. Build resilience in children

## Steps to Coordinating the Program

There are five key steps that FireSmart Coordinators should follow to successfully implement the Library Program:

### 1. Confirm library participation

Confirming participation with your local library is essential to the success of this program.

Before applying for funding:

- Contact your local library
- Explain the program
- Ask if they want to participate

Remember to point out:

- FireSmart pays for materials
- Libraries choose how to use them

### 2. Apply for funding:

Within the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports stream, the [Community Resiliency Investment \(CRI\) Program](#) provides three options for funding the FireSmart BC Library Program:

- Independent libraries: \$2,000
- Libraries with multiple branches: \$600 per branch
  - (Example: 10 branches = \$6,000)
- For books only (Wildfire Resiliency Readers' Kit): \$300 per branch

### 3. Assemble the Wildfire Resiliency Readers' Kit:

Once funding is obtained, put together the main resource for the Library Program:

**What is it?**

- A set of 10 picture books about wildfires that costs approximately \$300

**Topics include:**



- Wildfire science
- Fire suppression
- Survival stories

### **Where do I find the books?**

- The Wildfire Resiliency Readers' Kit catalogue is available to view on the [FireSmart BC Library Program web page](#). Individual books within the catalogue can be ordered through most bookstores.
- Books can be ordered in a bundle from the [United Library Services](#) or [Tinlids](#)

### **Who puts it together?**

- The FireSmart Coordinator buys and assembles the kit
- Once assembled, the FireSmart Coordinator shares it with participating libraries

## **4. Consider Adding Additional Resources**

If you received the full funding amount and have money remaining, you can add:

### **Ember coloring contest**

- Use pages from [Ember's Coloring Book](#)
- Give out FireSmart BC prizes

### **Kids' prizes:**

- Ember stuffed toys
- Ember coloring books
- Pencil crayons
- Ember stickers
- Ember tattoos

### **How to order:**

- Go to the [FireSmart BC Promotional Catalogue](#)
- Follow the order instructions

### **Free digital youth resources:**

Visit [Ember's Den](#) to access free printable youth resources that can be added to the Wildfire Resiliency Readers' Kit or used separately.

### **Storytime videos**

To increase the accessibility of the program, videos are available featuring firefighters reading wildfire-themed books with Ember.

- Find videos on:
  - [FireSmartBC Library Program webpage](#)
  - [FireSmartBC Vimeo account](#)

## **5. Hand off to the library**

Once the books and other resources are obtained, it's time to hand everything off to the library. The library chooses how to use the program materials.

### **Suggested ways for libraries to utilize the program:**

1. Library Storytime
  - Kit stays at library
  - Used for group reading events
2. Family Borrowing - Full Kit
  - Families borrow entire kit
  - Return after set number of days
3. Family Borrowing - Single Items
  - Library displays all materials
  - Families can borrow individual items

Choose what works best for your community!

### **Ready to get started?**

Contact [education@firesmartbc.ca](mailto:education@firesmartbc.ca) for more information or assistance in implementing the library program in your community.