



BRITISH COLUMBIA
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FireSmartTM Power Hour:

CRI Funding Update & Regional FireSmart and
Wildfire Resiliency Committee

October 26th, 2022



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Agenda

1. Provincial Update
2. Danyta Welch - UBCM
3. Terry Balan - Wildfire Resiliency Supervisor,
Regional District of East Kootenay



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Provincial Update

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Provincial Update - FireSmart BC Team



Kelsey Winter

Program Lead & Chair, BC FireSmart Committee



Janet Ford

FireSmart Coordinator, FireSmart BC



Helena Marken

FireSmart Research Analyst, FireSmart BC

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Provincial Update - FireSmart BC Team



Amanda Reynolds

Provincial FireSmart Coordinator, First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS)



Joel Hamilton

FireSmart Home Partners Program Provincial Coordinator, FireSmart BC



Lynn Eileen

BC FireSmart Committee Coordinator, UBCM



Karla Hoffman

FireSmart Landscaping Expert



FNESS Update



Provincial FireSmart
Coordinator for FNESS

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FireSmart BC Updates



LFR of the month



Craig Wilson

Fort St John, B.C.

1. Where do you live and what geographical area do you cover?

I live in Fort St John, and our program covers the Peace River Regional District, which is the largest regional district at 119,200 km².

2. How long have you been an LFR?

I've been an LFR for 2 years.

[Read more](#)



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2023 FireSmart Community Funding & Supports

Danyta Welch, UBCM



Agenda

1. Program design improvements
2. FireSmart activities
3. CWRPs and fuel management





Program Design Improvements

Increased funding:

- Lower risk communities (risk class 4-5) – up to \$100,000
- Higher risk communities (risk class 1-3) – up to \$200,000

Expanded timeline

- All activities will be funded for two years

Open intake:

- One application between October 1, 2022 and December 31, 2023
- Applicants will be advised of the status of their application within 90 days of submitting a complete, eligible application.
- Applicants will be eligible to apply for future funding after two years from the date of the approval agreement or after the complete final report is submitted.



FireSmart Activities – New Funding

- Up to \$45,000 per application for the new FireSmart Structure Protection Trailer program
- FireSmart projects for critical infrastructure now include eligible new construction
- FireSmart projects for community assets have been added and include eligible new construction
- Honoraria for cultural leaders, Elders, Indigenous knowledge keepers, and/or cultural keepers now eligible for funding
- Expenses related to local cultural protocols (e.g. gifts, cultural ceremonies) now eligible for funding



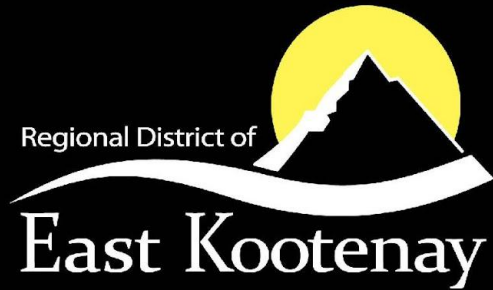
FireSmart Activities – Expanded Funding

- FireSmart positions continue to be funded, now with job descriptions and expanded training
- Rebates for home and property owners increased to \$1,000 and now includes eligible new construction
- New 2022 CWRP template, including FireSmart Roadmap
- 2023 FireSmart BC Conference will include the Wildfire Urban Interface Symposium. Applications can include up to 4 staff and up to \$2,000 per staff



CWRPs & Fuel Management

- New 2022 CWRP template
- Application review process: applications with proposed fuel management or CWRPs will need to complete an eligibility review with the BC Wildfire Service or First Nations' Emergency Services Society before the application is submitted.
- Cultural and prescribed fire, including expenses related to local cultural protocols
- New 2022 prescription guidance document



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East Kootenay Regional FireSmart and Resiliency Committee

Terry Balan, RDEK Wildfire Resiliency Supervisor

What is a Regional FireSmart and Resiliency Committee?

1. *Regional level collaboration and organization (missing link)*
2. *Creating and Strengthening relationships between key partners including local communities, provincial agency staff, first nations and other stakeholders*
3. *Multiple stakeholders working together under a common vision (seven FireSmart disciplines) to achieve wildfire resilient communities*
4. *Open forum to share concepts, challenges and best practices to better deliver East Kootenay-specific FireSmart and Resiliency initiatives*

Why and How was the Committee established in the EK?

Why

- *To explore the idea of a Regional FireSmart Program*
- *To confirm level of support and develop a framework for a Regional Program*
- *To discuss community FireSmart activities being undertaken and the successes and challenges being encountered*
- *To develop strong working relationships and build a Community of Practice to better deliver FS activities across the region*

Why and How was the Committee established in the EK?

How

- RDEK Wildfire Resiliency Supervisor recognized the need for regional collaboration **"Can't do this alone"**
- RDEK WRS led the development and establishment of the committee
- Developed the inaugural membership list for the committee
- Resources to support the committee are provided through an eligible activity under the CRI program funding

Who are the committee members :

East Kootenay Communities

- Regional District of East Kootenay
- City's of Fernie, Cranbrook, Kimberley
- District's of Elkford, Sparwood and Invermere
- Village's of Radium Hot Springs and Canal Flats
- First Nation Bands – Tobacco Plains, ?aq'am, ?akisqnuk and Shuswap

Provincial Agencies/Stakeholders

- BCWS (South East Fire Center, Cranbrook and Invermere Zones)
- Rocky Mountain Forest District – Wildfire Risk Reduction program
- Funding agencies - UBCM and Columbia Basin Trust
- FNESS (First Nations Emergency Services Society)
- Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resource Society

Geographic of the FireSmart and Resiliency Committee

- The entire Regional District of East Kootenay including all municipalities, First Nations and the Electoral Areas of the RDEK

Guidance to establishing a FireSmart and Resiliency Committee

- *Throw out a wide net when looking for members to the committee*
- *Have one entity take the lead on establishing the committee*
- *Have the committee members decide on the Terms of Reference at the first meeting (support and buy in from all membership)*
- *Visit the FireSmartBC website for guidance documents on forming a FireSmart and Resiliency Committee and developing the Terms of Reference*
- *Reach out to local governments who have a committee established for best practices*

Benefits to having a Regional FireSmart and Resiliency Committee

- *Opportunities to share administrative costs by working together*
- *Opportunities to share successes and challenges with delivering FireSmart activities within committee members area of influence*
- *Well informed communities, provincial agency staff, first nations and other stakeholders on FireSmart activities across the region*
- *Identify potential funding sources (myriad of grant providers) for FireSmart and Resiliency activities across the region*

“We can do this together”

*Thanks for your attention and for the
opportunity to share our experiences*

Questions?

tbalan@rdek.bc.ca/FireSmart@rdek.bc.ca

FireSmart Power Hour - Get Involved!



- FireSmart is shared responsibility, so is spreading the word.
- Participation from our partners is key to making BC FireSmart and we appreciate all that you do!
- Try out some of our new resources on the LFR Den, connect with other coordinators and program managers, and share your FireSmart success stories with us.



Q&A

Drop your questions in the chat box!