BRITISH COLUMBIA FireSmart™

Education Program

(Grades 4–6)

Lesson Five

Using ideas from news stories from British Columbia communities, students identify the important roles that individuals can play in making FireSmart communities. Students use these ideas to develop recommendations for a community action plan that encourages shared responsibility for wildfire safety and prevention.

Lesson Question:

How can people in communities best share responsibility for wildfire safety?

Lesson Challenge:

Develop four helpful recommendations for a community action plan that encourages shared responsibility for wildfire safety and prevention.

Big Ideas

- Safe environments depend on everyone following safety rules. (Grade 6 Career Education)

- Leadership represents good planning, goal-setting, and collaboration. (Grade 6 Career Education)

- Leadership requires listening to and respecting the ideas of others. (Grades 4 and 5 Career Education)

Suggested Materials

- **Activity Sheet A:** Identifying Helpful Actions (one copy for each pair or small group of students)

- **Briefing Sheet A:** FireSmart News Stories (one copy for each pair or small group of students)

- **Activity Sheet B:** Developing a Community Action Plan (one copy for each student)

Start the Thinking

1. Begin the lesson by posing a question and inviting students to make a decision: Who plays a more important role when trying to make a community FireSmart, individual people or the community?

2. Invite students to share their decisions and thinking with the class. As students share, guide them to see that being FireSmart by reducing possible harm from wildfires requires a collective effort—we cannot be safe if we do not work together.

3. Prompt students to suggest what actions individuals can take to prevent wildfires. Invite students to share their ideas, and note the ideas on the board or chart paper.

4. Review the ideas on the list with students and ask them to select the two most helpful actions that could be used by a community to prevent wildfires.

5. Ask students to share their decisions and thinking with the class. Use students' ideas to co-develop or present criteria for an action that would help prevent wildfires. A helpful action will:

   - **fit** the community (how well does the action match what the community has and what it needs?)
   - **improve** wildfire safety (how well does the action make a difference or solve a problem?)
   - **last** (how long do the benefits of the action last?)

6. Guide students' attention back to the two most helpful actions that they selected. Prompt them to revisit their choices, this time using the criteria to guide their decision.

7. Inform students that their challenge is to develop a set of four helpful recommendations for a community wishing to encourage shared responsibility for wildfire safety and prevention.
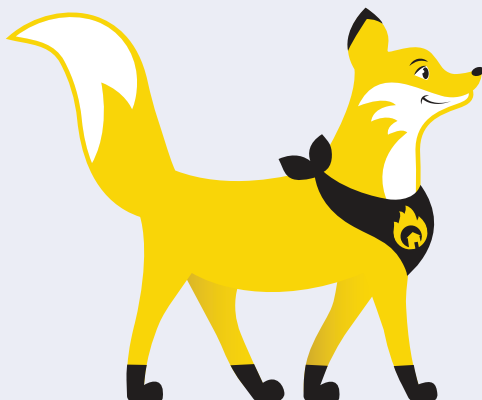
Grow the Thinking

1. Organize students into pairs or small groups and provide each group a copy of Identifying Helpful Actions (Activity Sheet A). Assign each group one of the news stories from Briefing Sheet A. If there are more than seven groups you can find additional stories at "FireSmart in action": https://firesmartbc.ca/firesmart-in-action-stories/.

2. Instruct students to carefully read their assigned story and to identify one or two helpful ideas that could be used in their community. Remind groups to use the criteria to guide their thinking.

3. Once all groups have had a chance to identify helpful actions, ask each group to share:

   - a brief summary of their story
   - one or two helpful actions
   - how their actions meet the criteria

4. Encourage students to listen for the most helpful actions presented by other groups.

Reflect on the Thinking

1. Provide each student with a copy of Developing a Community Action Plan (Activity Sheet B).

2. Ask students to individually select and record the best ideas for their community safety recommendations on their activity sheet.

3. Guide students in expanding their recommendations by:

   - describing how these actions will improve fire safety
   - deciding which members of the community could safely help with the actions

4. Encourage students to share their recommended actions with one or two other students to compare ideas and to help each other ensure their ideas meet the criteria. Invite students to revise their recommendations based on their collaborative thinking with peers and then to create their final set of actions.

5. Consider inviting community members who are involved in wildfire safety or FireSmart representatives to describe their roles and actions to the class. Community members and FireSmart representatives could also provide students with authentic feedback on their action plans.

Activity Sheet A:
Identifying Helpful Actions

Criteria for a Helpful Action	Ideas From News Stories	Why the Idea Meets the Criteria
It will **fit** the community (how well does the action match what the community has and what it needs?)		
It will **improve** wildfire safety (how well does the action make a difference or solve a problem?)		
It will **last** (how long do the benefits of the action last?)		

Briefing Sheet A: FireSmart News Stories

**The City of Powell River
and Broombusters team up
to remove hazardous Broom**

https://firesmartbc.ca/firesmart-in-action/
the-city-of-powell-river-and-broombusters-t
eam-up-to-remove-hazardous-broom/

**Peace River Regional District
and Mammoth Forestry's
Wildfire Preparedness Days**

https://firesmartbc.ca/firesmart-in-action/
peace-river-regional-district-and-mammoth-
forestrys-wildfire-preparedness-days/

**Port Moody
FireSmart School Visits**

https://firesmartbc.ca/firesmart-in-action
/port-moody-firesmart-school-visits/

**Nelson Fire &
Rescue Services**

https://firesmartbc.ca/firesmart-in-
action/nelson-fire-rescue-services/

Briefing Sheet A: FireSmart News Stories

**District of
Peachland**

https://firesmartbc.ca/firesmart-in-action/district-of-peachland/

**Fernie Wildfire Community
Preparedness Day**

https://firesmartbc.ca/firesmart-in-action/fernie-wildfire-community-preparedness-day/

**Powderview
FireSmart Work Bee**

https://firesmartbc.ca/firesmart-in-action/powderview-firesnart-work-bee/

**Additional stories can be
found at "FireSmart in action"**

https://firesmartbc.ca/firesmart-in-action-stories/

Activity Sheet B:
Developing a Community Action Plan

Recommended Actions to Make the Community FireSmart	How does the action help make the community FireSmart?	Who can help with this action?
1.		☐ everyone ☐ children ☐ adults
2.		☐ everyone ☐ children ☐ adults

Activity Sheet B:
Developing a Community Action Plan

Recommended Actions to Make the Community FireSmart	How does the action help make the community FireSmart?	Who can help with this action?
3.		☐ everyone ☐ children ☐ adults
4.		☐ everyone ☐ children ☐ adults

A helpful action will:

✓ **fit** the community (how well does the action match what the community has and what it needs?)

✓ **improve** wildfire safety (how well does the action make a difference or solve a problem?)

✓ **last** (how long do the benefits of the action last?)