



BRITISH COLUMBIA
FireSmart[™]

FireSmart[™] **Power Hour:** 2023 Recap & 2024 Outlook

December 13th, 2023



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Agenda

1. 2023 Recap
2. 2024 Outlook
3. CRI Funding
4. FNESS Team Expansion (ISC Funding and Updated Guide)
5. Resource Update Review
6. Program Update



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2023 Recap

2023 Recap



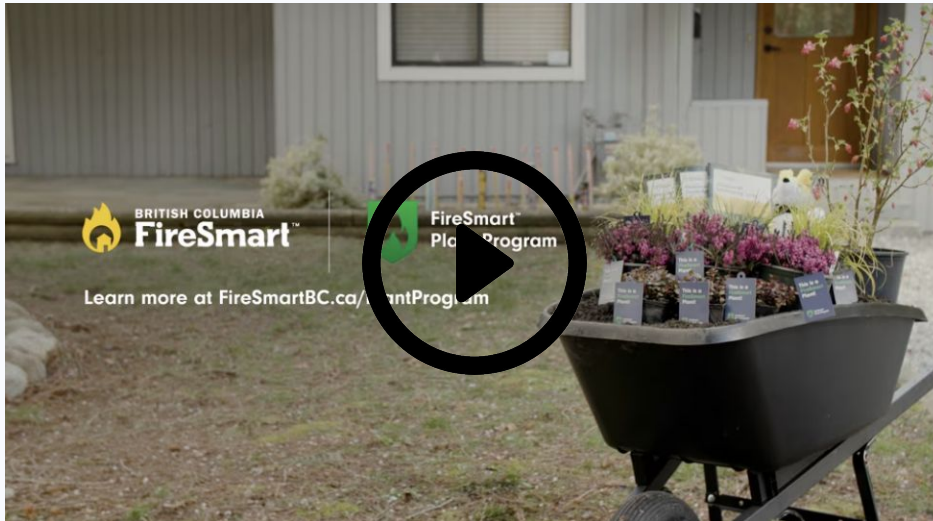
WCPD 2023

On May 6th members of the Cariboo Fire Centre, Central Zone, and Quesnel Zone participated in an Open house at the Cariboo Fire Centre. Two local fire departments joined and hosted a BBQ and we opened our doors to over 250 members of the community.



The FireSmart Plant Program returned for another great year

- 50+ garden centre locations across BC featured FireSmart plants and signage
- Participants were provided with expanded training videos and materials
- Our first Plant Program campaign was launched in April 2023





The first annual Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit was a huge success!

- 5 day event combining the FireSmart Conference and WUI Symposium
- 700+ attendees over a 5 day event
- World class speakers from CAL FIRE, Country Fire Authority (Australia)
- Launch of the first annual Lynn Orstad Award (Women in Wildfire Resiliency)



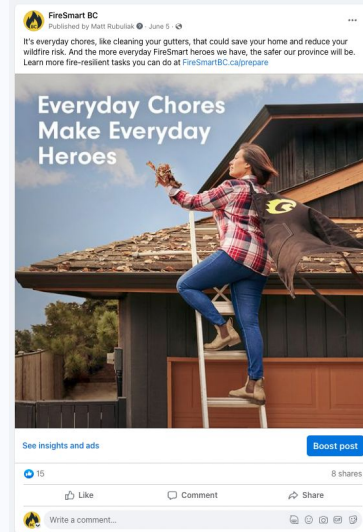
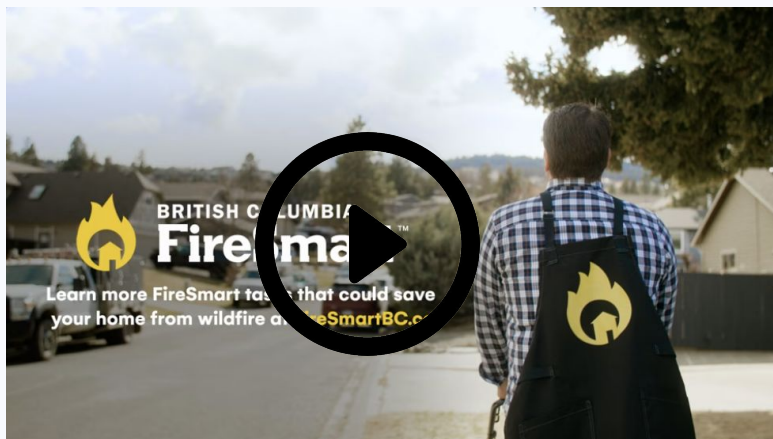
2023 Review



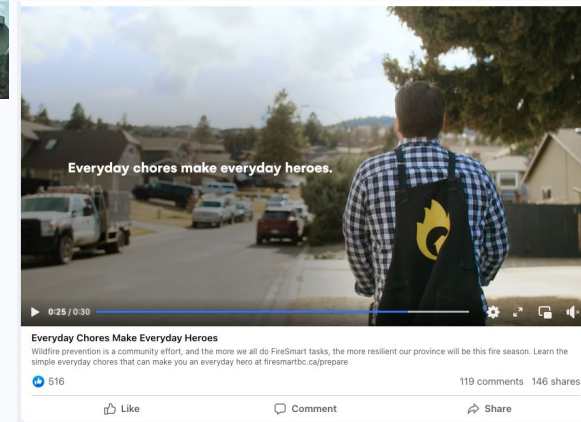
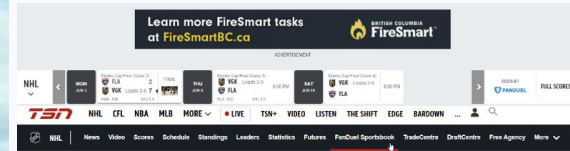
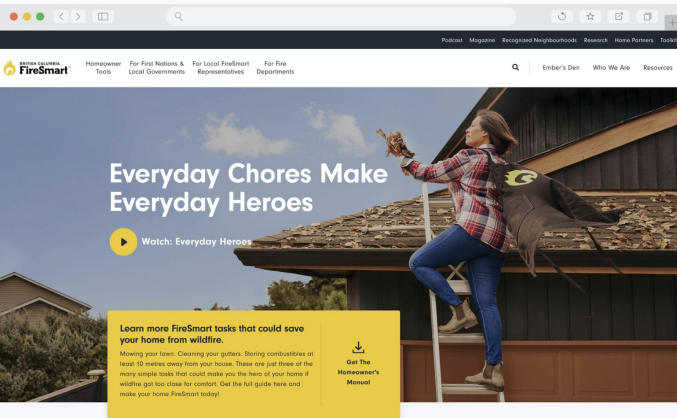


The FireSmart BC Spring Campaign was our largest and most successful to date

- Over 20M combined impressions across TV, Billboard, Radio, Digital
- Significant increases in web traffic and social media engagement over previous years
- Increased focus on rural/remote communities and grassroots engagement
- “Everyday Chores Make Everyday Heroes” messaging



The "Everyday Heroes" Campaign



We launched the new FireSmart BC Education Program

- An all-in-one teaching resource to introduce students K-12 to FireSmart concepts
- Lessons utilize modern learning methods and prioritize both representation and inclusion
- Rollout is underway, attending Pro D days and engaging our FireSmart network to spread the word



<https://firesmartbc.ca/educationprogram/>



The FireSmart program and network of individuals has continued to grow and expand











- FireSmart BC now has
 - 50+ FireSmart Coordinators
 - 1106 Trained LFRs
 - 205 Recognized Neighbourhoods
 - 70+ Home Partners participants
 - 150 Wildfire Mitigation Specialists (additional 80 pending)
 - Over 700 Assessments delivered (in 2023)
 - 532 in the past summer months



We're keeping up with growing demand of the program by building our internal team.

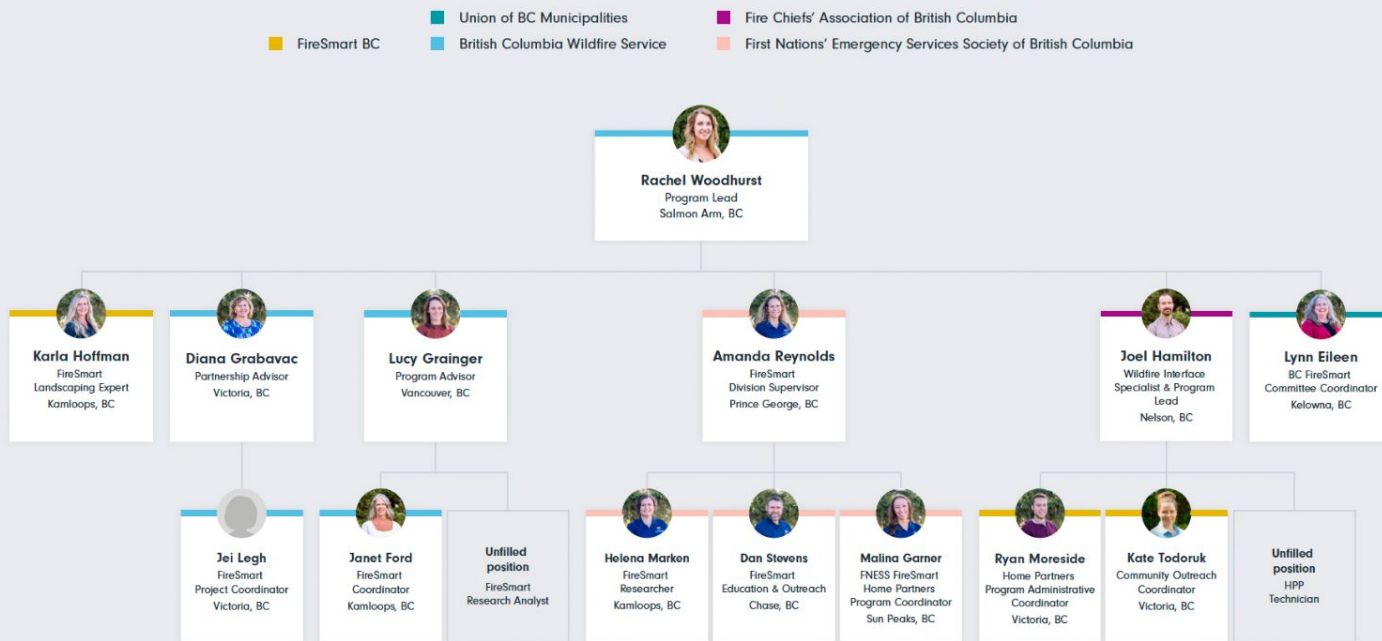
- Multiple new positions added this year
- Increasing capacity to serve key areas: Partnerships, Outreach, Home Partners, Education, Research
- Annual planning took place in Kamloops October 2023

BC FireSmart Committee Members

 <p>British Columbia Wildfire Service</p>	 <p>Fire Chiefs' Association of British Columbia</p>
 <p>First Nations' Emergency Services Society of British Columbia</p>	 <p>Union of BC Municipalities</p>
 <p>BC Parks</p>	 <p>FireSmart Canada</p>
 <p>Parks Canada</p>	 <p>Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)</p>
 <p>Forest Enhancement Society of BC</p>	 <p>British Columbia Office of the Fire Commissioner</p>
 <p>Ministry of Forests - Regional Operations</p>	 <p>Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR)</p>



FireSmart BC Organizational Chart





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2024 Outlook

Current and Upcoming Priorities



Current:

- 2024 work planning
- New team hiring/onboarding
- Wildfire season fallout
- Digital platform development & Home Partners Program turnover

Upcoming:

- Post-fire examination report: Shuswap and West Kelowna fires
- Summit 2024 - Prince George, BC - April 20-24, 2024
- LFR Workshop course development
- Improved focus on builders, DPAs, landscapers, and hardware centres



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CRI Funding

Jonas Woodrow, UBCM



CRI Resources:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/cri>

<https://www.ubcm.ca/cri/firesmart-community-funding-supports>

cri@ubcm.ca - FireSmart Community Funding and Supports & CRI questions

[2024 Program and Application Guide](#)



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First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC (FNESS) (ISC Funding, Supports, Outreach)



*FIRST NATIONS'
Emergency Services*

Supporting First Nations Communities with FireSmart



OUR MISSION

FNESS serves First Nations in developing and sustaining safer and healthier communities through:

- Emergency planning, training, response and recovery
- Fire training, education and prevention
- Forest Fuel and Wildfire Management
- Leadership and collaborative relationships

OUR VISION

Safe and Healthy First Nation Communities

WHAT WE DO

- Guidance on FireSmart BC resources and programing
- Work with the FNESS Mitigation Specialist/Liaison and First Nation communities in accessing funding through the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) or the FNESS-Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) On-reserve FireSmart Program.
- Suggestions on ensuring First Nation perspective and input are included in the FireSmart program.
- Support for local FireSmart positions working for First Nations in BC.
- Support for research projects within a community, or to serve a community.
- Implementation of the FireSmart BC Home Partners Program in communities.
- FireSmart Training/Mentoring to FireSmart staff positions
- Deliver FireSmart Education Presentations
- Participate in FireSmart Community events

Email: firesmart@fness.bc.ca

FNESS FireSmart in Action





Indigenous Services Canada On-Reserve FireSmart Program

The FNESS - ISC On-reserve FireSmart program is designed to support Indigenous communities in building wildfire resiliency through implementation of various FireSmart activities which include:

- FireSmart home and community assessments
- Education, training, and outreach
- FireSmart staff positions
- Fire resilient firewood structures
- Vegetation management
- Purchase of hand and power tools
- Equipment rental
- Continuing mitigation
- Animal grazing

https://www.fness.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/On-reserve_FireSmart_Program_and_AppGuide_Revised_11062023.pdf





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Resource Updates

Recent Resource Updates



- Community Poster (Fillable)
- FireSmart Assessment FlowChart
- Checklist for CRI requirement for a Fuel Management Prescription
- Home Ignition Zone Self Assessment
- Home Ignition Zone LFR Assessment
- Culturally Significant Sites and Green Spaces Guide & Assessment

Coming soon!



Home Ignition Zone



Immediate Zone

0m to 1.5m
A minimum 1.5 metre noncombustible surface should extend around the entire home and any attachments, such as decks.

Intermediate Zone

1.5m to 10m
This should be a fire-resistant zone, free of all materials that could readily ignite from a wildfire fire.

Extended Zone

10m to 30m
This and zones overlap areas to reduce hazards in this zone. Regularly remove fallen branches, dry leaves, and other needles to eliminate potential surface fuels.

Tree-to-Tree Spacing

Remove trees immediately, or create new tree-ignition-free zones to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next.

Coniferous Tree Spacing
This includes trees with light foliage. To reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next, the distance between trees should be at least 10 metres.

Tree Pruning

Pruning is the process of removing dead, dying, or diseased branches from a tree. It is an important part of tree care and helps reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next.

Pruning
Pruning is the process of removing dead, dying, or diseased branches from a tree. It is an important part of tree care and helps reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance is essential to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next. This includes removing dead, dying, or diseased branches and pruning trees to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next.

Roadways and Driveways

Regular maintenance is essential to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next. This includes removing dead, dying, or diseased branches and pruning trees to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next.

FireSmart Plan
A FireSmart Plan is a document that outlines the steps you need to take to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next. It includes information on tree care, landscaping, and other fire safety measures.



Understanding Fire Behaviour

Fire + Fuel = Why Homes Burn

Unmitigated Property
Properties with high fuel loads and no mitigation measures are more likely to be damaged by wildfire.

FireSmart-Mitigated Property
Properties with reduced fuel loads and mitigation measures are less likely to be damaged by wildfire.

- Fuels include trees, woodpiles, structures, fences, plants, etc.**
- Coniferous trees are highly flammable.**
- Deciduous trees are less flammable.**
- Embers and Sparks**
Embers and sparks can blow up to two kilometres ahead of a wildfire fire, igniting materials on or near your home and causing severe damage.
- Extreme Heat**
Radiant heat from a wildfire fire can melt vinyl siding, break windows, and ignite your home. Extreme heat can come from flames within 30 metres of your home.
- Direct Flame**
As wildfire fires spread toward homes, they ignite other flammable objects in their path. To stop wildfire fire from directly affecting your home, create breaks in its path.

Immediate Zone



Making the Most of Your Time

Regular maintenance is essential to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next. This includes removing dead, dying, or diseased branches and pruning trees to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next.

Doors

All doors should be fire-rated and have a good seal. The gap between the door and the frame should be no more than 3mm.

Windows

Tempered or multiple-pane windows are recommended as single-pane windows provide little resistance to heat from a wildfire fire.

Ground-to-Siding Clearance

Staying in contact with a gutter and other house or ceiling can get the wind-blown embers and sparks into your home.

Eaves and Vents

While some eaves venting has risks, they can be an opening for sparks and embers. Install eaves vents that are fire-resistant.

Other

Regular maintenance is essential to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next. This includes removing dead, dying, or diseased branches and pruning trees to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next.

Roof

A Class A fire-rated roof offers the best protection. Metal roofing, fire and weather-resistant shingles, and other fire-resistant materials are also good options.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance is essential to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next. This includes removing dead, dying, or diseased branches and pruning trees to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next.

Siding

Stone, metal, brick, concrete, and fiber cement siding offer superior fire resistance. Vinyl and wood siding are also fire-resistant.

Gutters

Regularly remove debris from your gutters. Debris can catch fire and easily ignite your roof materials.

Decks

Regular maintenance is essential to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next. This includes removing dead, dying, or diseased branches and pruning trees to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one tree to the next.

Chimney

A quick check on your chimney will reduce the chance of sparks and embers escaping and starting fires.



Recent Resource Updates



Mulch Guide

When it comes to wildfire resilience, not all mulches are created equal. That's why we created a mulch guide to make it easy for you to select fire-resistant materials for your garden and other areas around your property.

Risk colour legend

- Very low risk
- Low risk
- Moderate Risk
- High Risk
- Extremely High Risk

Note:

The levels of risk are based on the combined results from research regarding ignition probability, flame height, rate of spread, and temperature.

The inorganic materials noted in this guide will not burn, though combustible materials such as leaves could accumulate on the surface and ignite.

Mulch materials		Home ignition zones		
		Immediate (0-1.5m)	Intermediate (1.5m-10m)	Extended (10-30m)
Inorganic	Rock, gravel, shale, stone, lava, etc.	Very low risk	Very low risk	Very low risk
Organic	Mature compost	Moderate Risk	Low risk	Very low risk
	Composted Bark/Wood	Extremely High Risk	High Risk	Moderate Risk
	Mature Bark Nuggets	Extremely High Risk	High Risk	Moderate Risk
	Medium Bark Mulch	Extremely High Risk	Extremely High Risk	High Risk
	Raw Wood Chips	Extremely High Risk	Extremely High Risk	High Risk
	Pine Needles	Extremely High Risk	Extremely High Risk	Extremely High Risk
	Shredded Cedar	Extremely High Risk	Extremely High Risk	Extremely High Risk
	Shredded Rubber	Extremely High Risk	Extremely High Risk	Extremely High Risk

Recent Resource Updates



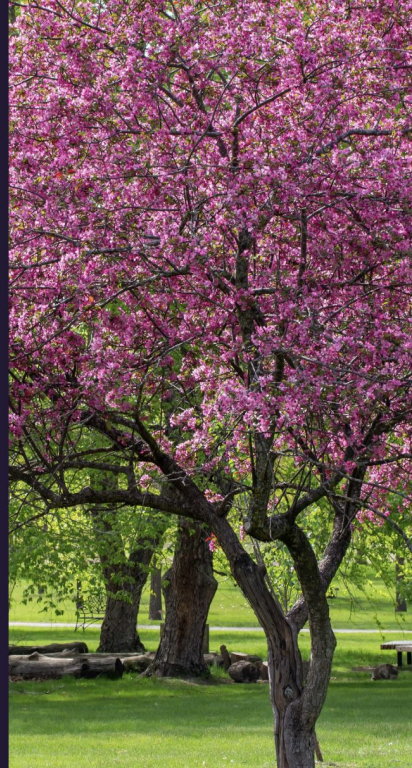
FireSmart BC

Lower Risk Plants for

- Hedges
- Privacy
- Screening



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Learn more at firesmartbc.ca





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Program Updates

2024 Summit



**WILDFIRE RESILIENCY
AND TRAINING SUMMIT**

SAVE THE DATE

April 20-24, 2024

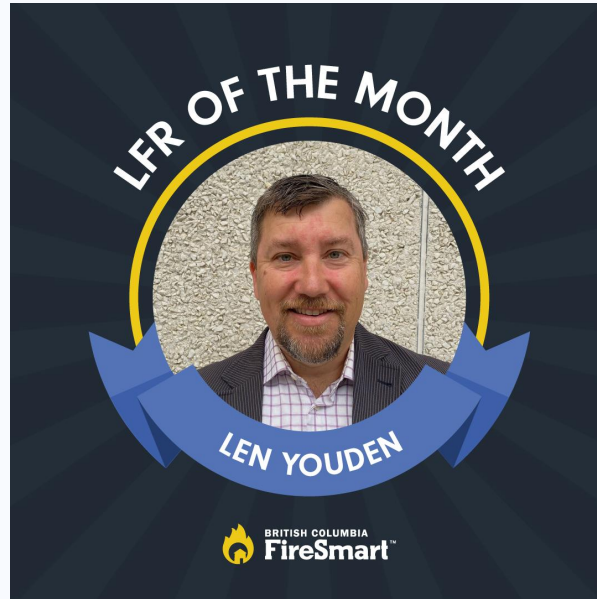
Prince George, B.C.

Unceded traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First
Nation, part of the Dakelh (Carrier) peoples' territory

www.wildfiresummit.ca

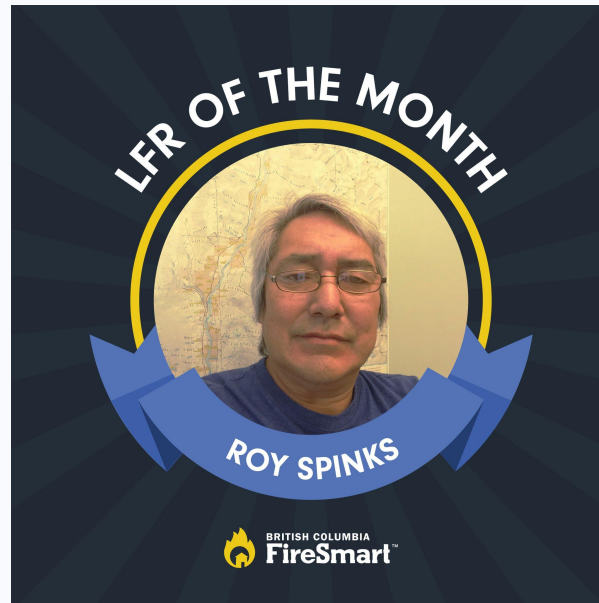


LFR of the Month



Len Youden
Columbia Shuswap Regional District

LFR of the Month



Roy Spinks
Lytton, Lytton First Nation, Village of Lytton & TNRD



LFR of the Month



Bryce Stirling
West Kelowna

Education Program



<https://firesmartbc.ca/educationprogram/>

Education Program



firesmartbc.ca/educationprogram

Education Program



FireSmart Coordinator School Visits

**Assembly or Classroom Presentations
w/ Ember the FireSmart Fox**

Education Program Toolkit Available!

<https://firesmartbc.ca/resources-lfr-portal/education/>

Password is FireSmart2020

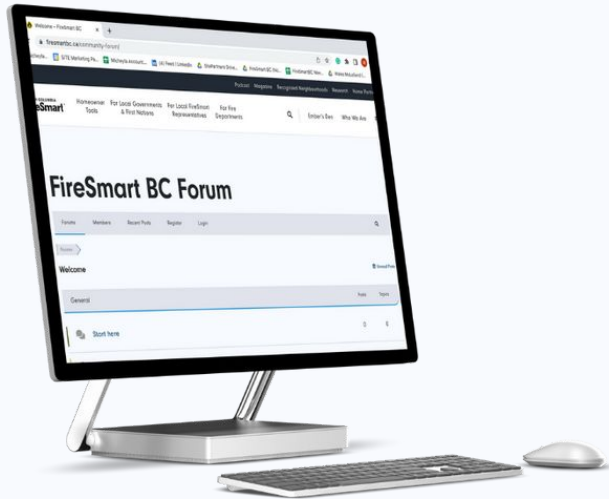
education@firesmartbc.ca

Lynn Orstad Award



<https://firesmartbc.ca/lynnorstadaward/nominate/>

Community Forum Evaluation



https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/firesmart_community_forum_feedback

Video Feature - West Kelowna





The Get FireSmart Podcast

Episode 34

The Digital Transformation of Fire Safety Education

Guest: Christina Hanger



FireSmart BC Updates



Listen to the Get FireSmart Podcast, read the FireSmart BC Magazine, and subscribe to our newsletter!

FireSmart BC Magazine



Follow us on Social Media:



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.

Questions? Contact support@firesmartbc.ca



Q&A

Drop your questions in the chat box!