

Friday, February 2, 2018

Kamloops Region First Nations

RE: First Nations' Wildland Firefighter Training Initiative

Dear Chief and Council,

During the summer of 2017, the Province of British Columbia (BC) experienced a major wildfire event and many of the First Nations' Communities in BC were directly affected by this event. Due to remoteness, in some cases, provincial resources to effectively respond to First Nations communities were delayed. In most cases, First Nations communities deployed their own internal firefighting crews – both structural and wildland firefighter personnel and resources. Based on post-wildfire review and debriefings to date, it was identified that if First Nations crews did not respond to wildfires in around their respective communities, they may have had greater losses to local structures and assets. It has been identified that there is a need for wildland firefighting training to build capacity and knowledge within our communities to a standard that will qualify participants and communities to be able to participate in contract opportunities with the BC Wildfire Services.

The First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) will be implementing a pilot project for 3 areas in the Province to deliver a First Nations' Wildland Firefighter Training Program. We are inviting your community to apply for 5 trainees to take part in 12 days of training. The first set of training is scheduled to start March 19th, 2018.

Within the Kamloops Region we have room for 20 trainee's/ participants and 4 communities, we will accept the first 4 communities who register by the deadline of Feb 15th, 2018, with completed forms.

Please confirm from the 5 participants each community submits an application form for if all require the level 1 first aid with transportation endorsement, and the wildlife danger tree assessors course. As we only have seats for 12 first aid – transportation endorsement, and 14 seats for the wildlife danger assessor course.

Communities/Participants are responsible for their travel, meals and accommodations to attend courses that will be located in Kamloops at the Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc Chief Louie Centre.

Here is the list of required BC Wildfire Service courses needed to meet the BCWS standing offer training requirements to be able to provide fire suppression services.

Courses – 12 Days
S-100: Basic Fire Suppression (CERTIFIED by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Rural Development—FLNRORD, specifically BC Wildfire Service)
S-185: Safety and Fire Entrapment Avoidance (CERTIFIED by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Rural Development—FLNRORD, specifically BC Wildfire Service)
S-212: Fire Line Communications (CERTIFIED by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Rural Development—FLNRORD, specifically BC Wildfire Service)
S-230: Single Resource Leader/Crew Boss (CERTIFIED by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Rural Development—FLNRORD, specifically BC Wildfire Service)
Basic Chainsaw Safety (CERTIFIED by the BC Forest Safety Council)
WCB Occupational First Aid Level 1 (CERTIFIED by WorkSafeBC)
Transportation Endorsement Certificate (CERTIFIED by WorkSafeBC)
ICS-100: Incident Command Safety (CERTIFIED by the Justice Institute of BC)
Wildlife Danger Tree Assessors: Wildland Fire Safety Module (CERTIFIED by the BC Forest Safety Council)
S-235: Burning Off and Backfiring (CERTIFIED by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Rural Development—FLNRORD, specifically BC Wildfire Service)

Please fill out the following form and return to us by 4:00 p.m. on February 15th, 2018.

For information contact the First Nations' Emergency Services Society at Tel: (250) 377-7600 or by Email: ffminfo@fnss.bc.ca.

We wish you every success and look forward to working with you on future community safety initiatives involving building business capacity and partnerships.

Sincerely,



Jeff Eustache, RFT
Manager, Forest Fuel Management Department