First Nations' Emergency Services Society
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

OPPORTUNITY IN FNESS

Community Outreach Strike Teams – Pilot Initiative

Competition # 2021-07

Summary

There are 203 First Nations Communities in British Columbia. A significant number of our Nations are situated in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) where they are prone to both high and extreme risks of wildfires, as well as other all-hazard risks, such as flooding and pandemics. Both First Nations and BC Communities have been heavily impacted by wildfires in 2021 and significant risk remains that has the potential to severely impact more communities in not only 2021, but in future years to come. There is an immediate need to implement measures to reduce risk to community members, prevent loss of residential structures, and collect information necessary to support current recovery and future wildfire mitigation initiatives.

Opportunity

Opportunity exists to reduce community risk, as well as increase efficiencies in all recovery initiatives for impacted communities. This can be achieved with the establishment of Community Outreach Strike Teams. These Strike Teams can be deployed to Communities who are at imminent risk to wildfire and implement actions that will reduce potential impacts to residential structures, as well as support recovery initiatives for members of communities that have been impacted by wildfires.

Strike Team Activation

The intent is for these trained strike teams to be deployed once an EOC has been activated for the community and have the support of Chief and council to work closely with the Structure Protection Specialists and Local Fire Departments.

Roles & Responsibilities – Including, but are not limited to:

- Liaison with PREOC to obtain most relevant contact for the community in question, as well as coordinate resource allocation and other logistics.
- Conduct Rapid FireSmart Assessments (FireSmart brand usage pending approval, otherwise, the form will be revised to FNESS Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessment).
- Community Data Collection: Property Addresses, # of Residents/Property, Pets and/or livestock.

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- Indigenous Engagement Support/Emergency Support Services (ESS) Liaison: Provide information such as where and who to report to in the event of an evacuation order, as well as resources available for those affected.
- Assist in BCR development for local state of emergency.
- Fuel Treatment Data Collection (time permitting): the state of completion for any current & relevant fuel treatments.
- Conduct Rapid Damage Assessments, if necessary, to determine structural damage/hazard area(s).

Preferred Qualifications

- Crew Leader Certification
- Local FireSmart Representative or Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Certification
- S100: Basic Fire Suppression and Safety Certification
- S185: Fire Entrapment Avoidance and Safety Certification
- Basic Fuel Management Experience & Understanding
- Basic First Aid Level 1 w/ Transportation Endorsement
- Strong Engagement & Relationship Building Skills experience working with First Nations
- Experience in Band Council Resolution (BCR) Development

TERM: As needed Casual employment Contract
LOCATION: Depending which PREOC requests assistance.
Hours of Work: Dependent on the activation of the EOC for the community at risk.
Application Deadline: Friday August 6th, 2021 – 4:00 pm Only successful candidates will be contacted.

Please forward current resume and cover letter to: EOC1@fness.bc.ca

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