



Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service Fire Prevention & Public Education Annual Report 2014

Overview:

Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service (FFFRS) continues to provide education in Fire and Life Safety in our Community and, as opportunity allows, to the Rainy River District. We are dedicated to ensuring the highest level of programming and delivery techniques are utilized when imparting educational material necessary for residents to keep safe.

History:

In previous years, Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service has been very active in achieving the safety needs of our Community and 2014 was no exception. While continually analysing local safety issues, the FFFRS continues to develop, implement, deliver and evaluate all programs to ensure we maintain quality safety initiatives.

Present Community Awareness and Activities:

A number of comprehensive programs are presently being offered and/or delivered in the Community. These programs are directed at what are considered to be groups at higher risk to fire and other safety concerns. For example, Risk Watch is promoted in elementary schools to help young persons make smarter choices in eight separate categories of safety. Older Adults are provided education through group discussions and programs such as Older & Wiser. Fire Prevention Week provides the advertised opportunity to reach all age groups in between with general fire safety messaging on topics such as safe cooking, candle safety and safe use of smoking material.



Fire Safety Day at Canadian Tire – local firefighters



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Developed programs presently offered by the FFFRS are as follows:

- Risk Watch for elementary schools
- TAPP-C The Arson Prevention Program for Children
- Fire Station Tours with general fire safety messages geared to age
- School Fire Safety & Exit Drill Practices
- “Alarmed For Life” Smoke Alarm Program
- Fire Prevention Week Activities and Awareness Displays/Presentations
- Commercial & Industrial Fire Safety Plan Staff Training
- Fire Safety Training for Staff in Health Care Facilities
- Fire extinguisher training for the workplace
- Routine Fire Safety Inspections/Inspections upon complaint and request
- General Fire Safety Public Service Announcements



*Fire Prevention Captain Wayne Riches on a school visit
Photo Courtesy Fort Frances Times*

2014 Results:

- Over 85% of required fire safety inspections were complete at year-end. Outstanding inspections will be carried over into the spring of 2015 for completion
- Many Community groups, school students/teachers and other members of the public were involved in fire station tours or received presentations on fire safety during 2014
- The Fort Frances Fire and Rescue Service hosted a Community BBQ in partnership with the Red Cross during Emergency Preparedness Week.



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Approximately 250 people attended the event that included information booths, displays and handouts.

- Fall Fire Safety Day took place in partnership with our local Canadian Tire in October with the Red Cross in attendance as well. Various equipment, displays and handouts were provided for people of all ages (estimate 500+ people attended the event)
- Approximately 500 JK – grade 3 students and 59 teachers in our community were visited by Fire Department staff during 2014 Fire Prevention Week
- We continue to provide Staff training sessions regarding workplace Fire Safety to many Commercial and Industrial Occupancies within the Community
- Fire extinguisher training has been provided for many workplace employees within Fort Frances (including TOFF staff) and the request for our training services continues to increase
- The Fire Department continues to utilize a variety of safety related public service announcements, having aired on the local radio stations and in the local paper
- Older Adult Fire Safety sessions continue to be delivered at Senior Housing Complexes
- Components of the Risk Watch Program continue to be offered within our local School System
- Upon year-end, there were no referrals to the department's TAPP-C Program. We attribute this to an increase in fire safe behaviour as a direct result of the education programs we deliver
- Fire department staff observed a number of fire drills within our Community, ensuring compliance with the Ontario Fire Code
- Fire Safety Displays have been established at various locations within the Community throughout the year



*Fire Safety Day at Canadian Tire
Captain Kirk Armstrong
Photo Courtesy Fort Frances Times*



Local Firefighter training session

Conclusion:

07/08/2015

“Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives”



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2014 has been yet another busy and challenging year for the Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service. We are continuing to see positive results in reduced costs regarding fire loss and most importantly, reduced deaths and health care requirements caused by a variety of preventable injuries. A huge thank you goes out to all the Firefighters in the Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service for their dedication and commitment to ensuring safety to the residents of our Community.

Sincerely

Wayne Riches
Fire Prevention Captain
Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service