

Kahnawá:ke First Nation

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Reporting

When it comes to fire prevention, education and awareness are essential to the health and safety of members of Aboriginal communities across Canada.

That's why the Aboriginal Firefighters' Association of Canada and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada have launched the BeFireSafe education campaign aimed at spreading the word about the need for fire safety year-round both inside and outside the home.

Joining us to talk about the importance of this initiative is Captain Wihse Stacey with the Kahnawá:ke Fire Brigade. Captain Stacey thank you for joining us to. First off, the befiresafe education campaign how important is it to the work that's already being done in your community?

Captain Wihse Stacey,
Kahnawá:ke Fire
Brigade

"Well in our community we're very pro-active when it comes to public education. We try everything even as low as the daycares right up to our elders in the community so the befiresafe campaign to us is a very valuable tool. Very valuable resource, not only for us as the firefighters giving the training but as well as to any other community members who want to go online, read up on the material that we have and what they have and they can learn more what they choose."

So who the most vulnerable in your community and what are some of the areas that you try to focus on in your education?

"We actually don't focus on one part of training, of prevention cause there are so many different areas out there. We'll concentrate in the spring on grass fires, on learning to clean up your yard a little better. Making sure you have the proper amount of space between any green areas and your house just to keep it safe in case there is a grass fire. In the winter, being prepared properly if you need to stay inside your house. Cleaning your kitchen things like that. We just don't focus on one area. We focus on many."

That's good to know. Are there any lessons learned that you can tell other communities about so that they can use the work that's being done here to support their communities as well?

For more information
on National Fire Protection

Association codes, visit
www.nfpa.org

'Well one of the things here is we've adopted the NFPA codes and we've applied them within our own community. The fire chief, he can go in and inspect any public building and we require that you follow the NFPA codes which include sprinklers. So any renovated building require sprinklers and statistically, nobody has ever died in a fire in a sprinklered building. So a good lesson learned is *Be Prepared.*"

Sprinkler statistic refers to
Kahnawá:ke First Nation

Absolutely, good comments. Thank very much for your time. Captain Wihse Stacey with the Kahnawa:ke Fire Brigade talking about the importance of education and awareness when it comes to being fire safe both inside and outside of the home.

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