

Fire Protection Strategy Fund

Webinar

November 13, 2025

For General Information Purposes Only



Indigenous Services
Canada

Services aux
Autochtones Canada

Canada 

Presentation Outline

Orientation
Awareness
Engagement

- First Nations Fire Protection Strategy 2023–2028
- Level of Service Standards Review
- Fire Protection Strategy Fund
- Home Safety Assessments
- Fire and Life Safety Assessments
- Reflection

Purpose and Objectives

First Nations Fire Protection Strategy (2023–2028)

Aim and Purpose of the Strategy

- Improve fire and life safety for all First Nations.
- Reduce loss of life, injuries, and damage to homes and infrastructure.
- Provide a shared vision, priorities and strategic objectives for 2023 to 2028.
- Promote fire and life safety initiatives among partners, funders, and stakeholders.
- Support tracking of progress and guide programming discussions with First Nations.
- Inform program policy and guide federal investments to promote fire protection on reserve

Fire Protection Strategy

Priorities

- Partnerships for First Nations Fire Protection
- Fire Prevention Education
- Community Standards
- Fire Service Operational Standards
- Climate Change Considerations
- Critical Infrastructure

Fire Protection Strategy priorities

1. Partnerships for First Nations fire protection

First Nations to seek support and partnerships from fire safety organizations and where they don't exist from the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council.



2. Fire Prevention Education

Fire prevention education is by far the most efficient and effective measure to enhance fire safety.



3. Community standards

Promoting and implementing community standards will have a direct impact on fire safety in First Nations



Standard

4. Fire service operational standards

In First Nations where fire services are provided either by a First Nations Fire Department or through agreement with a neighboring municipality



5. Climate change

Climate change continues to increase the risk of wildfires that greatly increases the potential for loss of homes, critical infrastructure and cultural assets in First Nations.



6. Critical infrastructure

This focus area identifies key elements to assist in developing plans to improve infrastructure assets and improve fire and life safety



First Nations at greater risk from emergencies and structural fires

Climate Change

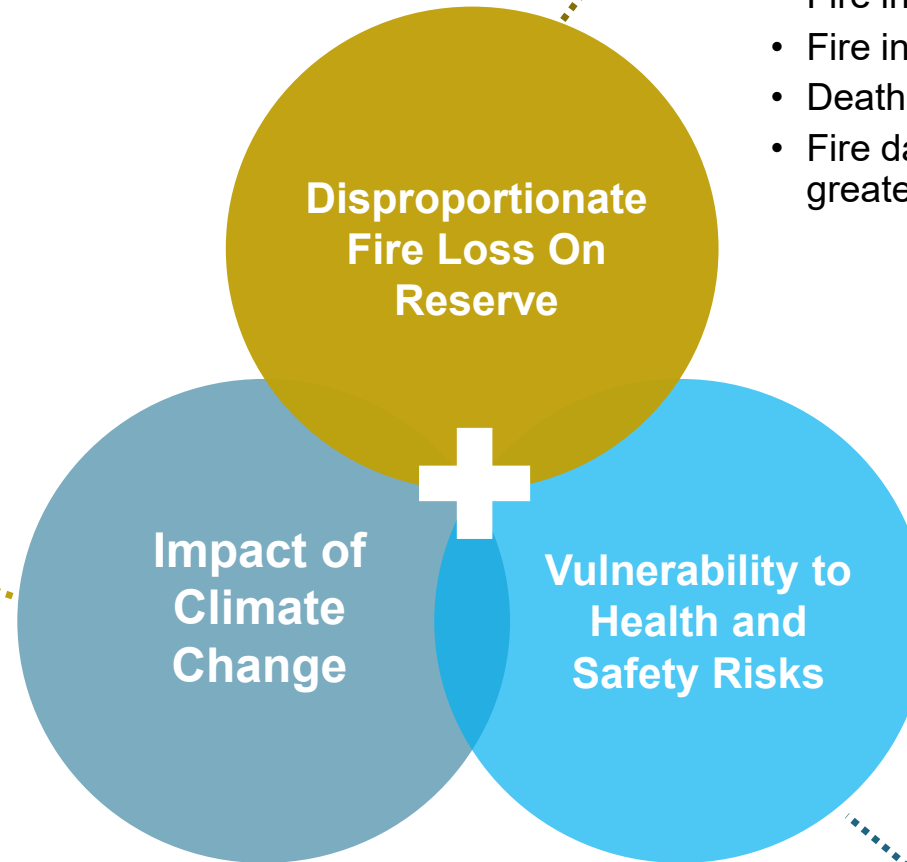
- Increased impact of wildfires across Canada,
- Increased potential loss of homes, critical infrastructure, cultural assets in First Nation urban areas.
- First Nations have also been disproportionately impacted by regional and provincial emergency events such as flooding and forest fires.

Alarming Vital Statistics

- Fire incidence rate is 2.4 times greater
- Fire injury rate is 2.5 times greater
- Death rate is 10.4 times greater**
- Fire damage per unit is 2.1 times greater

Contributing Factors On-reserve

- Remoteness and community size, overcrowded housing, socio-economic factors, absence of regulation, jurisdictional issues (e.g. 911 services, inspections).
- Lacking resources to deliver basic fire prevention education
- Lacking resources to suppress & control of structure fires and fires where wildland meets First Nation communities.



Fire
Protection
Strategy
Fund

- Funding Announced in Budget 2024
- A total of \$20.9 million will be provided nationally over three years, starting in 2024–2025
- Ontario Region Portion for 2025–2026: \$2.3M
- Ontario Region Portion for 2026–2027: \$1.1 M
- The funding will focus on fire education, awareness, and prevention, including smoke alarm initiatives, fire extinguishers where appropriate, and residential fire safety.
- The Ontario region will be launching the initiative shortly.

Fire

Protection

Strategy

Fund

Key Launch Details

- All First Nations will be invited to submit their interest in accessing this funding
- A maximum of \$40,000 per First Nation will be available
- First Nations that submitted interest last year will be automatically approved, based on their previously submitted work plan, for up to \$40,000 under this initiative
- Remaining First Nations will have two weeks to respond
- An attestation or Band Council Resolution (BCR) will be required from each participating First Nation
- A sample work plan will be provided with the invitation; however, communities will have flexibility to adjust based on local needs and capacity
- Chief and Council may choose to redirect this funding to Tribal Councils to maximize benefits to all member nations by coordinating activities at the Tribal Council level

Fire

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Strategy

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Eligible Activities

- Fire education and prevention activities
- Installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Installation of fire extinguishers
- Inspection of fire halls and fire vehicles, addressing minor deficiencies
- Home fire safety inspections, addressing minor deficiencies
- Upgrading or acquiring telecommunication equipment
- Upgrading personal protective equipment to NFPA standards
- Preparation for and/or implementation of 911 service
- Training for tenants, firefighters, maintenance staff, and housing staff
- Development of fire prevention policies, officer roles, and governance structures
- Other fire mitigation activities based on local needs

Home Safety Assessments (HSA)

Provided by
National
Indigenous Fire
Safety Council –
no charge to the
First Nation

Home Safety Checklist

- Exterior fuel tanks or gas metres
- Electrical safety
- Steps and handrails
- Doors and windows
- Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms
- Fire extinguishers
- Environmental hazards (mould, damp conditions, etc.)
- Plumbing and heating (baseboards, space heaters, wood heat)
- Home safety plan

Fire and Life Safety Assessments

Provided by
National
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Safety Council –
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First Nation

- Community Fire Safety Assessment
- Home safety assessments
- Fire department assessments
- Building inspections

Reflection

“Asking a question is an act of respect — it shows the learner is ready.”

- (Inspired by Anishinaabe teachings)

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