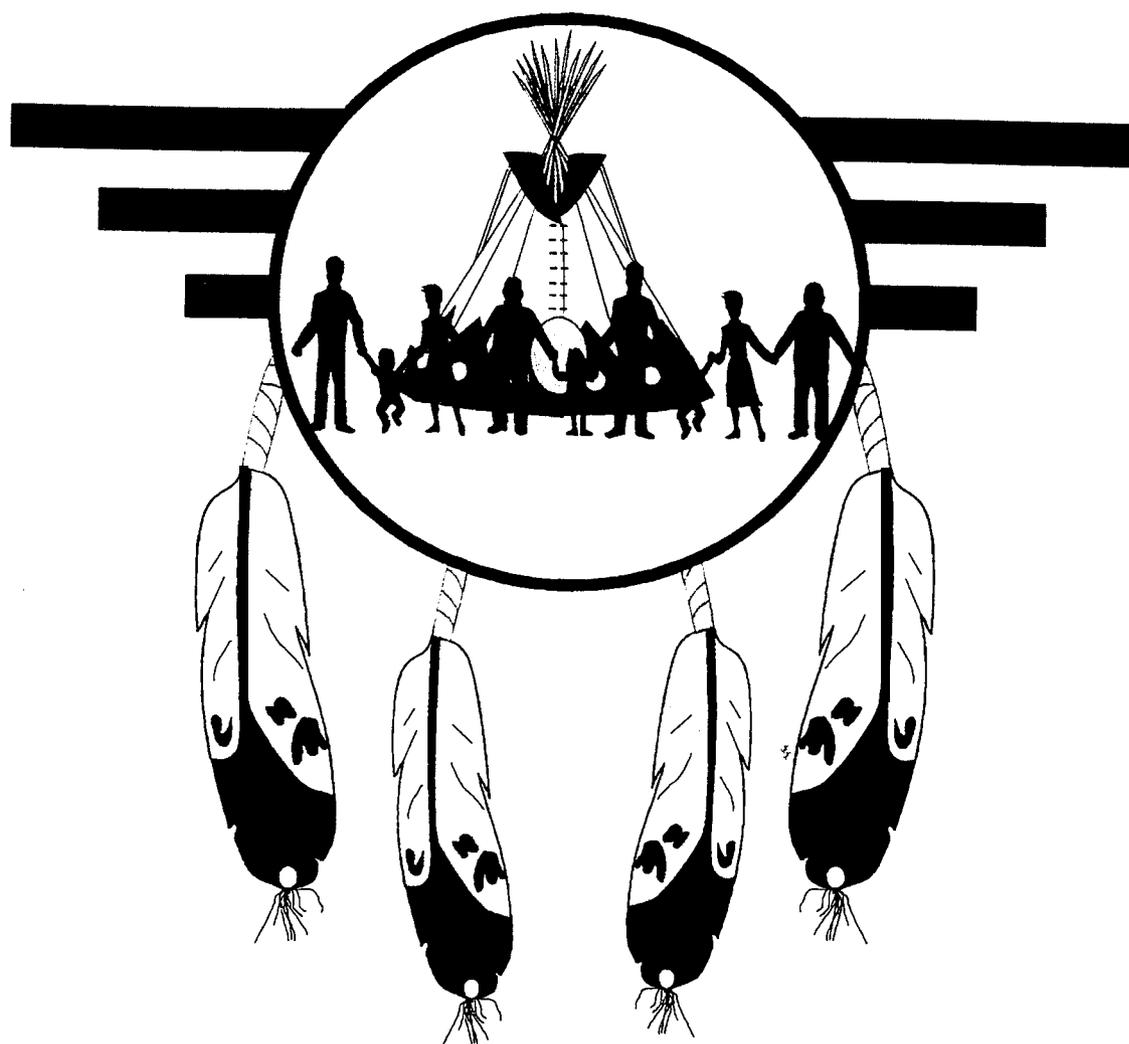


Designing and Implementing Fire Prevention Strategies in American Indian Communities:



A Resource Manual

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Introduction

The United States has the highest residential fire death rate of any developed country in the world, except Canada. About 3,500 people die in house fires every year in the U.S. — that's about 10 people every day.

The fire death rate for American Indians is about three times higher than the National average. From 1990-94, 236 American Indians died in house fires — or about one person every week. The elderly and children five years old and under are at highest risk of death from house fires. Communities in the Northern Plains, Midwest, and Alaska have especially high rates of fire death in the home. The leading causes of house fires that result in deaths are smoking, arson, and home heating devices.

But these statistics only tell part of the story. They cannot show the agony, suffering, and personal losses that house fires cause victims, their loved ones, and the community. These are all too common stories in the U.S.:

"In the worst fire disaster in the history of North Dakota, nine American Indians, six of whom were children, perished in a home fire. The home had a smoke detector, but it had been disconnected and was not working at the time of the fire."

"An American Indian mother and her son perished in a home fire. The home had a smoke detector, but a neighbor said it had been disconnected due to false alarms from cooking."

Fire injuries are not "accidents." Thinking of injuries as accidents implies that they happen by chance and cannot be prevented. *Fire injuries and deaths are predictable, and most can be prevented.*

- ✓ Are you concerned about protecting yourself and your loved ones from house fires?
- ✓ Has your community had a fire tragedy?
- ✓ Have you lost a loved one or community member to fire?
- ✓ Are you interested in working on solutions to fire safety problems in your community?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this manual is for you. The resources in this manual were developed to provide direction and resources for American Indian communities interested in developing a fire safety program or strengthening an existing program. Many of the lessons learned from the National Indian Safe Home Coalition project sites are included.

An Action Plan for Success

Do you need an action plan for your fire safety project? Yes! You need a plan that defines the steps and gives structure to your project. The following is an outline of an action plan. Each step will be discussed in the following sections. Please keep in mind that this is provided as an example, all communities are different, and your plan should be tailored to your community, based on finances and local needs.

Step 1. Getting Started: Collect Baseline Data

- . Fire department and Housing Authority data
- . Hospital, clinic, emergency management service

Step 2. Using a team approach in community fire safety

- *Invite members to participate
- . Decide meeting time and place
 - . Pass a resolution recognizing coalition
 - . Define coalition goals and objectives

Step 3. Conduct a community assessment

- . Develop assessment protocol
- . Conduct home assessments
- . Review fire safety laws
- . Identify fire department needs
- . Determine community member's opinions
- . Collect additional information about local fire/burn injuries

4. Develop your strategy (Goals & Objectives)

- . A working smoke detector in every home
- . An escape plan for every home
- . House numbers visible on every home
- . Passing smoke detector laws
- . Raise community awareness
- . Develop a **timeline**
- . Determine who will do which tasks
- . Develop a budget

5. Implement Your Strategy

- . Develop, select, and order materials
- . Develop communications strategies
- . Activate your program

6. Is it working? Evaluate your program

- . Process evaluation: have you achieved your objectives?



Step 1: Getting started: Collecting baseline data on fire and burn injuries

People often get involved with issues because of a motivating factor, such as the loss of a loved one or community member, or because of a perceived problem in the community. Before jumping into action, you need to gather some information about your community. First determine whether home fire deaths are a problem in your community. If data show that home fires are a problem, the data will give you proof for convincing people to join you in addressing fire safety issues, and can help convince funding sources to allocate money towards your project. This data will also help you plan an effective way to address fire safety in your community.

Where do you get the background information you need?

Your local fire department will have data on the fires in the community. From this data, you can determine the number of house fires, number of people injured, and number of deaths in your community for a given time period. You may also talk to the local fire chief to understand the fire department's challenges to providing fire protection (such as slow response time due to lack of house numbering or lack of equipment such as a pumper truck). Your local housing department may also have information on house fires, usually through a risk manager such as AmerInd. The tribal court or tribal secretary can tell you if your tribe has any laws regarding fire safety, such as smoke detector or automatic sprinkler requirements in homes.

The baseline fire and burn data that you collect will give you general information. To supplement your baseline data, your coalition may want to gather additional fire and burn injury information from other sources. One way to collect this information is to use IHS phase I and II injury forms used in severe injury surveillance (see Appendix). Sanitarians at many service units routinely gather these statistics. However, the populations of small reservations may not be large enough to show trends, unless many years of data are collected.

Another source of data is your local emergency medical service. They will have information on calls that they have made to treat people injured or killed in house fires. If there is an IHS health care facility in your area, you may be able to collect information on fire injuries from them.

To visually show where fires, injuries, and deaths have occurred, your coalition may want to make a pin map of the community. The local housing authority, fire department, or roads department may have a map that shows locations of homes in the community, or you may have to make one

yourself. Then you can place pins colored differently for house fires, deaths, and injuries on the map where these events have occurred.

Mille Lacs tribal members were seeing a lot of house fires. Many members had taken down the smoke detectors in their homes because of false alarms. “We became concerned, and wanted to do something about this” says Sharon Gislason, Director of Health and Human Services. “Data from the housing authority showed that there were a lot of house fires in the community. From this, we started having meetings and developed a home fire safety project.”



Step 2: Using a team approach in community fire safety

One strategy to begin addressing a community fire problem would be to form a team (or coalition) of persons interested in, and/or responsible for fire safety or prevention in the community. Why form a coalition? Coalition members work together to achieve a common goal. A coalition can reach more people, address more complex problems, and is more credible than any single person or agency. It also pools human and financial resources, and improves relationships between individuals and programs.

Who should you involve in the coalition?

- The local fire department is a very important contact. The fire department is the local authority on how fires start, the effects of fire on life and property, and how to prevent fire deaths and injuries. The fire department can furnish data on fire and injury.
- The housing authority has a vested interest in protecting the homes that they build. They have access to insurance records of house fires, educational materials, listings of residents, and many have contact with all residents through a newsletter or mailings.
- Representatives from school, head start, child care, etc., can help by providing fire safety curricula to children, and may allow children to participate in child-specific community fire safety projects.
- The health director or health board chairperson's job is the health and safety of community members. They can provide a link to voice concerns to the council, and can help with writing, supporting, and submitting resolutions.

- Invite tribal council members and other influential community leaders to attend meetings. They may not be able to attend all meetings, but keep them informed via copies of meeting minutes and newsletters. They can assist your coalition by passing resolutions, laws, and may even provide funding and staff resources.
- Community Health Representatives and Public Health Nurses are concerned with the health and safety of community members, and many make home visits. They may be able to do home surveys, install smoke detectors, or distribute educational materials.
- The local emergency medical services can provide statistics on fire injury and death calls.
- A health educator can help with distributing educational materials, making presentations, and conducting other activities.
- Community members bring ideas and can help with activities. Volunteers generate in-kind match for many grants. They also can express their support of your coalition and project with the Tribal Council.
- Tribal or IHS **sanitarians/environmental** health specialists may be able to help with data collection and analysis and help the coalition develop, implement, and evaluate the action plan.
- Local community or service organizations can offer resources such as educational materials, smoke detectors, volunteers, and funding. Some of the organizations that may be interested in your project include: Safe Kids coalition; Boys and Girls Clubs; 4-H; tenant organizations: the Kiwanis, Rotary, Optimists, or Lion's Club; local hospitals: Red Cross: and local businesses.
- Local media representatives (e.g., newspapers, radio, television) are always looking for good stories. They can help by providing increased community awareness of the coalition and its goals and activities.

You may not need to form a new fire safety coalition if your community already has an injury prevention or health promotion coalition. In this case, a fire safety coalition may be "piggy-backed" or adopted as a subcommittee of an established coalition.

Tips for coalition meetings

Successful coalitions take time and effort. The following are suggestions for beginning and maintaining coalitions:

- Pick a regular meeting schedule. Hold meetings the same day and the same time each month, if possible. This will help to avoid scheduling and meeting place conflicts.
- If coalition members are also participants in another committee, conduct coalition meetings immediately before or after the other group's meetings to increase the likelihood of coalition member participation. Participation can increase if coalition members only have to leave their offices once per day to attend a meeting.

- Distribute meeting agendas in advance of each meeting. Start each meeting by reviewing the agenda. Solicit additional agenda items as needed.
- Start and end meetings on time.
- Continue to recruit new members at each meeting. This helps to stimulate the group process.
- Ask coalition members to serve meeting roles, such as facilitator, secretary, and timekeeper so that coalition members develop ownership of the meetings. This may also broaden participation levels among all coalition members.
- Keep a list of action steps generated at each meeting, including the names of people who have agreed to do them. This allows for easier follow-up between meetings. The list can also be used to start the next meeting's agenda by reviewing the progress made on the action steps.
- Provide meeting minutes to all coalition members, especially to those who have to miss meetings, to keep them informed of activities.
- If possible, reward active coalition members for their work to meet goals and objectives. A reward might include sending them to receive additional professional training at conferences or workshops.
- Regularly encourage new community members to join the group.
- Because people are often very busy, you may want to limit meetings to 1-2 hours, once each month.

Starting points for your coalition

- Write a resolution for the Tribal Council to formally recognize your coalition. This gives your coalition credibility, which helps when applying for funding. An example of such a resolution passed by the Fort Peck Reservation is included in the Appendix.
- Get all members to participate in developing the coalition's goals and objectives (details are discussed in Step 4).
- Begin a small, easy-to-complete project as a first step. Small successes will propel the group to larger successes and increased membership and support from the Tribal Council and community.
- Write a short description of your coalition and the issues that you are working on. You can use this description to develop pamphlets, press releases, public service announcements, and other materials that can be used to increase community awareness and support.



Step 3: Conduct a community assessment

What is a community assessment and how will it help us?

A community assessment includes a survey of tribal fire safety laws, the fire safety status of homes, fire department needs, and community opinions. This

information is essential for developing your strategy to prevent home fire injury and death.

Home assessments

Surveys can be conducted either by visiting or telephoning homes. Procedures and forms for completing these surveys are included in the Appendix. The home assessment should include determining whether each home has working smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, an escape plan, two exits from the home, and visible safety hazards.

Once you have selected a method for doing home surveys, test the survey form on a small number of homes to see how it works. You may decide to modify the form before surveying the majority of homes.

To be effective, home assessments should be done either before handing out or while installing any home fire safety equipment. An even better approach may be to have smoke detectors, exit plan forms, fire extinguishers, or other materials with you at the time of your assessment, so that they can be installed during the same visit.

Home assessments may be done initially for fire safety reasons, but the information you get from these surveys can also be used for other purposes.

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians completed home surveys. The information from the surveys was used not only for fire safety, but was also useful in receiving funding for a lead poisoning prevention grant.

Assessing community opinions

Public opinion surveys (opinionaires) can be conducted to get feedback from the community on fire safety and prevention issues. This information is used to identify promising approaches as well as barriers to a community fire safety program. You can use opinionaires to gather input on: attitudes towards the fire department, community leaders, and smoke detectors; who feels at risk of fire/burn injury; and pre-testing of educational materials and messages. An example of an opinionaire is included in the Appendix.

The following are some methods for gathering community input using an opinionaire:

- Interview selected community members or passersby at random:
- Provide questionnaires at your community health care facility, health department, or other facility:

- Get a group of community members together and talk about fire safety issues.

When complete, your community survey will show you the size and characteristics of the fire safety problem, who is affected, how the community feels about this issue, what the needs are, and whether any laws address fire safety. This information is then used to help you develop your action plan.



Step 4: Develop your strategy

Develop project goals and objectives

- Goals broadly describe what the coalition hopes to accomplish over the long term (3-5 years). For example: "To reduce fire and burn injuries among our tribal members to zero."
- Objectives are statements of specific and measurable steps that need to be completed to accomplish the coalition's goals. Objectives answer the questions of who, what, where, how, and when. Objectives are used to guide the project evaluation. "The Spirit Mountain Fire Department will install smoke detectors in 250 homes in the Spirit Mountain community by December 31, 1999" is an example of an objective.

The effective fire safety program

The most effective approach to preventing fire-related injuries and deaths combines the 3 E's: education, enforcement, and environmental modification. If possible, try to make goals and objectives that include the 3 E's:

- Education

Education has two components. The first component attempts to persuade people to adopt safer behavior. For example: educate people to install and maintain smoke detectors, and to identify and correct unsafe situations in their homes. The second component addresses community education. In order for real change to take place, people need to be motivated. Community education measures attempt to raise general awareness about fire/burn injury risks. It is also the component necessary to educate elected officials about good public health policy such as a tribal fire safety code. Because education is only one part of the effective approach to injury prevention, we cannot rely on it alone to prevent fire-related injuries and deaths.

- Enforcement

This refers to what is required by tribal law or housing code, and how those laws and codes are enforced. For example: the Tribal Council

passes a law requiring smoke detectors in all homes and apartments, and also requires the Housing Authority to enforce this law.

- Environment

The most effective way to prevent injury and death is to alter the physical environment to make it safer. For example: install smoke detectors, ensure that each residence has at least two accessible escape exits, and use fire-resistant materials in home construction and clothing.

Develop a timeline for your project

Once your coalition develops an action plan, it must determine how to accomplish the steps that make up the objectives and to determine who will be responsible for them. One useful tool to show this is a project timeline.

To create a timeline, list the steps required to finish your project, and estimate the time required to complete each step. You will also list the person(s) who will be primarily responsible for completing each step. Then draw a line across the time frames during which each step will be accomplished. For example, the following timeline was developed for the objective of installing smoke detectors by December 31, 1999 in all homes needing them:

Action Steps	Coalition Member Responsible	Month											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Develop home survey form	Health Director	█											
Develop educational materials	Fire Chief, Health Educator	█	█										
Inform community about surveys	Health Educator, CHRs			█	█	█	█						
Conduct home surveys	Fire department				█	█	█						
Order smoke detectors	Health Director							█					
Install detectors, give education	Fire department, Health Educator								█	█	█	█	
Evaluate Project	Health Director												█

The ideal community fire safety plan: focus on smoke detectors and escape plans

You may ask the questions: What would my tribe have to do to really reduce our fire/burn injuries and deaths to zero? What steps would make our community as safe as possible? The ideal community fire safety plan includes the following components:

1. A tribal law that requires smoke detectors on each level of each home and apartment on the reservation or in the community.
2. All homes protected by at least one working smoke detector on each level of the home.
3. Each home smoke detector is inspected annually during a visit or phone survey by a coalition member.
4. Each home has an escape plan (example included in Appendix).
5. The fire department is trained, staffed, and equipped to respond in a timely manner to home fire emergencies.
6. Each fire in the community is investigated thoroughly. Contributing factors are identified and action steps are taken to eliminate or reduce similar incidents in the future.

**Smoke detector success stories:
Coalitions in Mille Lacs, Bad River, Spirit Lake Sioux, and Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservations completed home surveys and installed smoke detectors in homes that needed them.**



Step 5: Implement your strategy

Using public communications to raise community awareness

To be effective in influencing your target audience, educational materials must have these three components:

1. The message (for example, “protect your life by maintaining your smoke detector”),
2. a believable, trusted source (for example, the fire chief), and
3. the medium (for example, the tribal newsletter or radio).

The purpose of communication materials

Your coalition can develop communication materials to provide information about your program, public education about fire safety and prevention, and to drive tribal and public policy towards support and action

for your program. Informational media include: flyers, pamphlets, press releases, videos, newspaper articles, and posters (see Appendix for examples). The easiest educational piece to prepare is the one-page flyer.

Your coalition's logo and who to contact for more information should be included on all materials prepared by your coalition. In addition:

- Materials describing your coalition should also include a description of your coalition's goals and what you are trying to accomplish and why.
- Materials intended to drive public tribal and public policy could also include: local data about fire-related injuries, deaths, and community fire safety needs, goals of your coalition, and guidance on how policy makers can be advocates for your program.
- Public education materials might also include local statistics and the message you want to convey. They can be written to cover many fire safety topics such as facts about fire and burn injuries and how they impact the community, how community members can protect themselves from fire/burn injury by installing and maintaining fire safety equipment, and how to get involved with the coalition.

A press release can be developed for the mass media (e.g., radio, newspaper, and television). See example in Appendix.

- The first paragraph should include the key message, and address who, what, where, when, and why. This paragraph is the "lead" paragraph, and should be written to catch and hold the attention of the public and the media.
- Each additional paragraph is less important. If editors need to shorten a story, they often start cutting from the bottom.
- The next paragraph should include important details about your coalition's message.
- The last paragraph can include miscellaneous information about your coalition's message.

Developing materials

In order to develop effective messages, your coalition must be knowledgeable about the problem you are addressing, the target audience, and any relevant social issues. The baseline data you collected will provide information about the number of fire-related injuries and deaths in your community. The community-needs assessment will give you information on how the community perceives the fire problem, its opinions on what needs to be done, and potential barriers to an effective fire safety program. It can also identify people who are trusted in the community and the most effective mode of information dissemination (e.g., newspaper, posters in social areas, radio, etc.). The home surveys will give information on how many and which homes require fire safety equipment or fire safety improvement. All of this local information can be synthesized into an informative and effective message.

Pre-test your educational materials on a small group of people from your target audience. This group can point out which parts of your materials may be hard to read or understand. They can also show you what changes you can make to improve the layout and design of your materials. Educational materials should be simple and concise, and readable at the fourth grade level.

Distributing your message

An effective message is one that reaches your target audience and is repeated over a long time period. Your program will not work if your message is not distributed effectively. Your community assessment can give you information on how to get your message across. Does the tribe or community have a newsletter, newspaper, or radio station? Is there a community meeting place where posters are read? You can also distribute messages at public meetings, presentations, and personal visits. Curricula such as "Learn Not to Burn" can be used to educate school children. Radio, television, and newspapers can reach many people more quickly than a personal visit, but the depth of communication with mass media is not as deep as with a personal visit (and there is no two-way communication). Because each community is different, your coalition must determine which approaches will work the best in your community.

Using mass media to advance your fire safety issues

Mass media is a powerful way to deliver your coalition's fire safety messages to large numbers of people. Gaining access to the media to advance your issues is important because it increases the visibility of your issues and attracts the attention of politicians. To use the mass media to effectively propel your cause:

- Shape the story to get the media's attention. The media are interested in stories that are sensational, show tragedy, conflict, or mystery, and those that are close at hand. Stories are interpreted as newsworthy if they show people doing the new or unusual, overcoming difficult odds, or helping others. The more accurate, timely, and interesting your information, the more valuable it is to the media.
- Tell the story the way you want it to be told. Frame the story so that its conclusion is the issue that you want to advance, for the people that you want to reach. If you want to advance public policy, frame your story in the context of a public health problem, and not the fault of individuals. Recognize who has the responsibility to solve this problem and propose strategies. Such strategies could include passage of smoke detector housing ordinances, improvements in housing to improve safety, and enforcement of laws.

A sample public communications approach

The recent deaths of community members in a house fire caused the formation of the Spirit Mountain Safe Home Coalition. The house that burned did not have smoke detectors, and Coalition members felt that the residents would still be alive if detectors had been installed. The Coalition believes that few homes have working smoke detectors. The housing authority has a code that requires each home to have a working smoke detector, but they do not enforce this code. The Coalition decided to make smoke detectors their number one priority and started a media campaign during Fire Safety Week in October. Here is their approach:

- The school agreed to present fire safety curricula to the children. The school asked students to test their home smoke detectors with their parents and to bring back a signed form that included an educational message. Each child who brought back a signed form received a coupon for a free **pizza** donated by a local cafe.
- The Coalition wrote a public education article for the tribal newsletter and a public service announcement (PSA) for broadcast by the local radio station. The coalition newsletter is mailed to every home in the community. The following information was included:
 - Statistics about recent fire-related deaths in the community;
 - An educational message about the importance of installing and maintaining smoke detectors;
 - Information that the fire department will be making home visits to check fire safety in all homes. Smoke detectors will later be installed in all homes needing them, and the fire department will discuss care of detectors with residents.
 - An appeal to the housing authority to enforce the code requiring working smoke detectors in all homes:
 - An appeal to the tribal council to pass a resolution requiring working smoke detectors in all homes and requiring the housing authority to conduct quarterly safety inspections at all homes to ensure that smoke detectors are in working condition:
 - In the next newsletter and PSAs, the Coalition published the findings of the fire department's safety surveys, which found that only 15 percent of homes had adequate numbers of working smoke detectors. Public outcry was so great at this point that the tribal council passed the Coalition's resolution requiring the housing authority to enforce their smoke detector code.

With so many choices, which is the best smoke detector to buy?

A smoke detector doubles the chances of surviving a fire by providing the early warning needed to get out of a burning building. It is very important that each home has at least one working smoke detector on each story, preferably near bedrooms. Further, in homes with disabled residents, it is recommended that smoke detectors be installed in bedrooms also.

However, studies have shown that a large number of American Indian

homes do not have any smoke detectors. Another problem is that in homes with smoke detectors, many have been disconnected due to frequent false alarms from cooking, bathroom steam, and wood smoke.

There are two types of smoke detectors available: ionization and photoelectric. Ionization detectors are cheaper, they may be purchased for as little as \$5, but are more prone to false alarms from cooking. These detectors are often disconnected because they false alarm so often. Photoelectric detectors are more expensive, usually \$1520, but they are not as sensitive to cooking vapors and smoke, so they don't false alarms nearly as often as ionization detectors.

Ionization detectors with hush buttons are also available. These detectors are sensitive to cooking vapors, but have a hush button that silences the alarm for 5-15 minutes. The disadvantage of these detectors is that when they sound false alarms, it takes conscious effort to silence them. As these detectors may not stay silenced long enough for the cooking smoke to subside, they are prone to be disconnected.

Given limited funding, it may be difficult to choose between photoelectric and ionization detectors (including those with hush buttons). In homes where you can install the smoke detector at least 20 feet from the stove and 10 feet from the bathroom, ionization detectors may not sound as many false alarms. They can also be installed in basements or lower levels where cooking is not done. However, in smaller homes where this separation is not possible, photoelectric detectors are recommended.

“We chose photoelectric detectors. In choosing our smoke detectors, we knew that the photoelectric detectors were more expensive than ionization, and that we couldn't buy as many. But we had a big problem with people disconnecting ionization detectors due to false alarms. We even had community members die in homes where the smoke detectors had been disconnected. We wanted to try the photoelectric detectors, so we purchased and installed them.”

Spirit Lake Sioux Dakota Nation Safe Home Coalition

Both types of detectors are available in hardwired (electrical) and battery models. Some are a combination of hardwired and battery backup. Studies have shown that hardwired models are less likely to be disconnected than battery models. If funding allows, hardwired models with battery backup are recommended.

Tip:

A quick way to install smoke detectors is to apply Velcro adhesive to the detector, then simply stick the detector to the ceiling with a toilet plunger. The adhesive won't stick to spray-textured ceilings, however, so you will need to use a wall instead.

Smoke detectors with 10-year batteries sealed into the unit are available for about \$20. These detectors still need to be tested to ensure that they work, but the batteries are never replaced. When the battery dies, the detector is simply replaced with a new one.

Another choice to make is whether to simply give smoke detectors away upon request, at health fairs and other events, or to have somebody working with your coalition install the detectors. When smoke detectors are simply given away, they usually are not installed — they sit in closets, etc. Visiting homes to put detectors up ensures that they will be installed properly. One study also showed that when people are charged a small fee for a smoke detector, even as little as \$1, they are more likely to use and maintain it than if they received it free.

All smoke detectors require testing and maintenance to ensure that they will work in the event of fire (see fact sheet in appendix). When your coalition is installing or distributing smoke detectors, this information should be communicated to home residents.

Should we give out fire extinguishers?

The decision to provide fire extinguishers should be approached cautiously. If accessible and properly used and maintained, fire extinguishers can be used to put out small fires. But fire extinguishers can give a false sense of security. Because a fire extinguisher will only discharge for 6-8 seconds, a resident must make a quick decision whether to fight a small fire or escape from a larger fire. And fire extinguishers must be kept properly charged. It is recommended that extinguishers be given a simple visual check once a month and serviced annually by a qualified individual.

If a decision is made to provide fire extinguishers, ensure that home residents are trained in their proper use and maintenance (see fact sheet in appendix). Residents also need to be instructed on “fight or flight” — how to decide whether to fight a fire versus escape and call the fire department. A good general-purpose (ABC) home fire extinguisher will cost about \$27. If your coalition is faced with limited resources, it is best to allocate resources to smoke detectors first.

Other products

Several low-cost items that your coalition may want to consider distributing, both for public relations and for protection, are child-proof lighters and safety ashtrays. These items can be exchanged for non-childproof lighters and regular ashtrays you may see during a home assessment. These items can be personalized with your coalition's logo, to make them more likely to be used.



Step 6: Is it working? Evaluate your program

Evaluation is an important component of a community fire safety program. It allows you to determine whether your coalition is successfully meeting action plan objectives. Evaluation allows you to determine whether changes are needed to make your project more effective. The evaluation is also usually required to satisfy funding agencies such as the Tribal Council, IHS, and other grantors, that the program is working.

One method of evaluation is called process *evaluation*. This is simply documenting your coalition's actions, and determining whether your coalition is achieving the objectives contained in its action plan within stated time frames. For example, your coalition may have the following objectives in its action plan:

- The Community Health Representatives will complete fire safety surveys of all homes and apartments on the reservation or in the community by December 31, 1998.
- By June 30, 1999, the Coalition will work with the Tribal Council to pass a tribal law requiring one working smoke detector on each level of each residence.
- The fire department will install smoke detectors in the homes of 20 elderly persons by August 31, 1999.

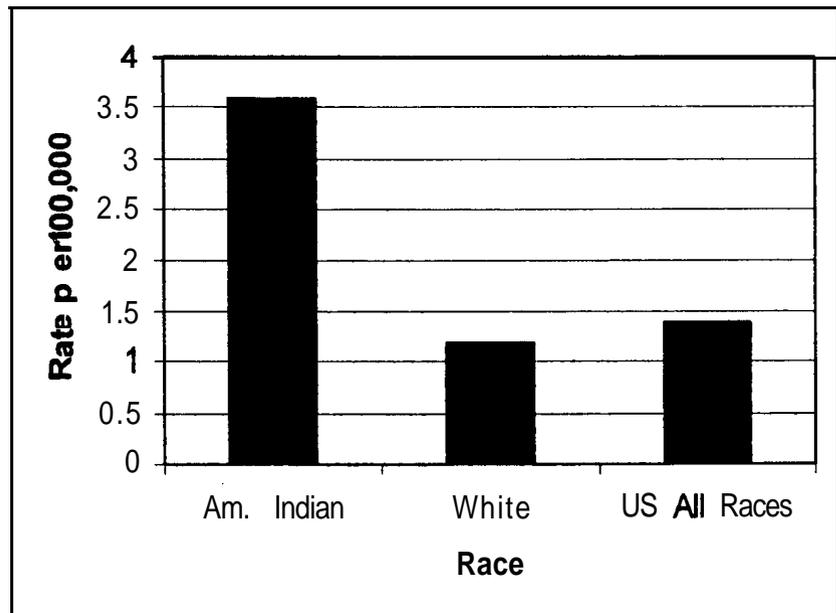
Another form of evaluation is *outcome evaluation*. This is a very desirable evaluation, but more difficult to achieve than process evaluation. An outcome evaluation shows that your coalition's program was successful in improving the health status of the reservation or community by significantly reducing burn injuries and fire-related deaths. One way to do an outcome evaluation is by comparing your baseline fire-related injury and death data with data collected after your program has started. One limitation of outcome data is that it is very difficult to show significant reductions in injury and death rates in very small communities without compiling many years of data.

Fire and Burn Injury Statistics

Residential Fire Injury

- ▶ Fire is the leading cause of injury-related death in the home.
- ▶ Every year in the United States, about 440,000 residential fires are reported. That's nearly 1 house fire every day!
- ▶ Every year in the United States, about 1,400 people die in house fires. That's the equivalent of 3 full 747 jets and 1 full 727 jet crashing with no survivors each year.
- ▶ American Indians have a fire mortality rate that is 3 times higher than Caucasians, and 2.6 times higher than the National average.

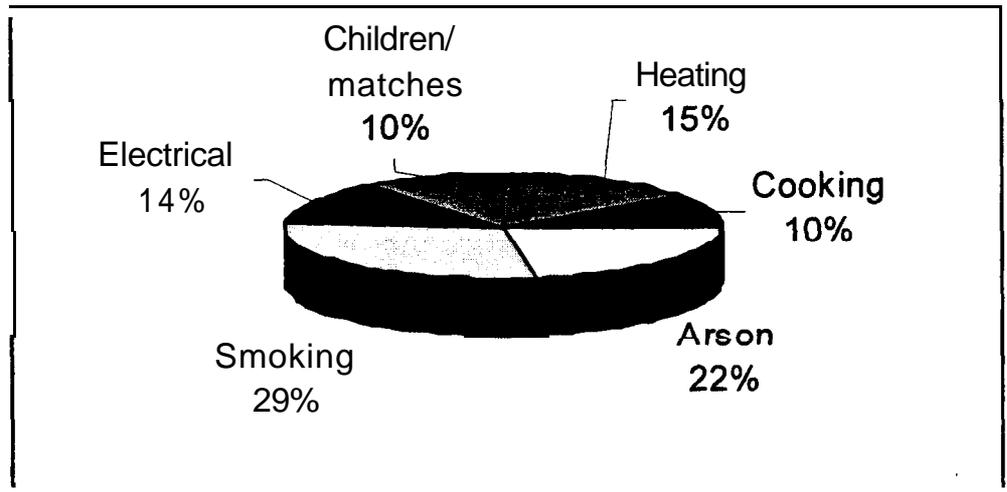
House Fire Deaths by Race
1990-1 994



House Fire Deaths by Cause

- ▶ Nationwide, the leading causes of house fires that result in death are:
 - Smoking materials
 - Arson
 - Cooking

Leading Causes of House Fires with Deaths, US All Races



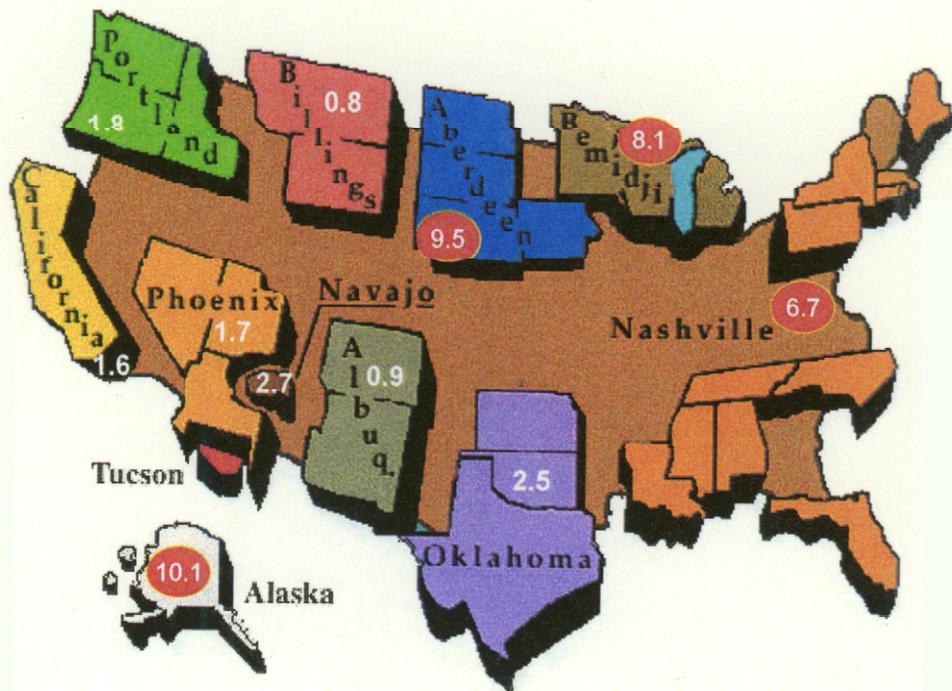
Geographical Area

On average, 72 American Indians die each year in house fires. That's about 3 American Indians dying of house fire every two weeks.

The risk of death due to a house fire varies across the country. Between 1990-1994, the IHS Areas with the highest rates of house fire deaths were:

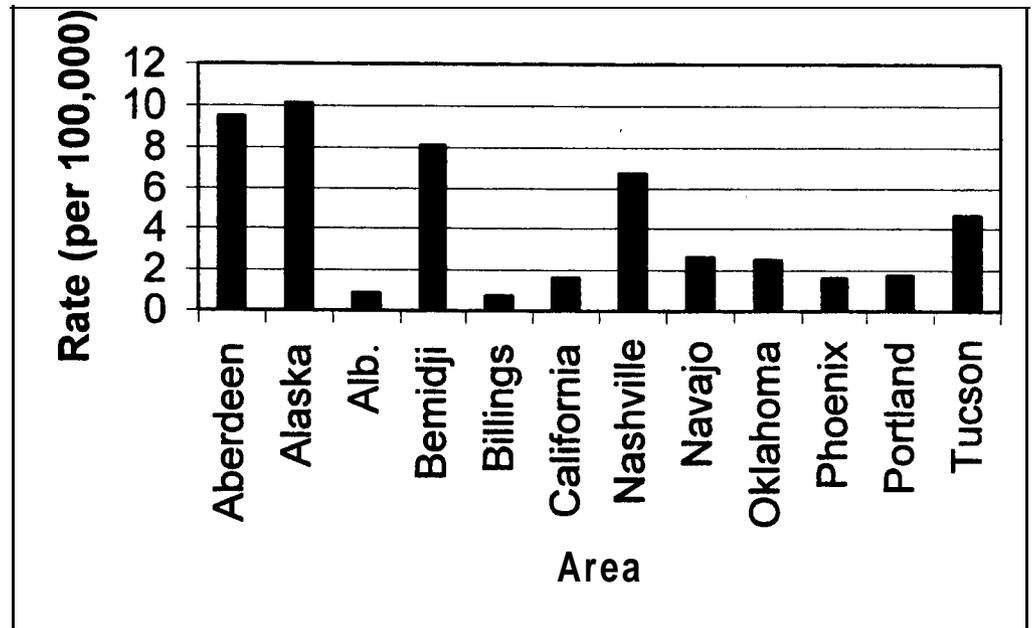
- Alaska Area (10.1 deaths per 100,000)
- Aberdeen Area (9.4 deaths per 100,000)
- Bemidji Area (8.1 deaths per 100,000)

House Fire Mortality Rates (per 100,000) by IHS Area, 1990-1994



Geographical Area

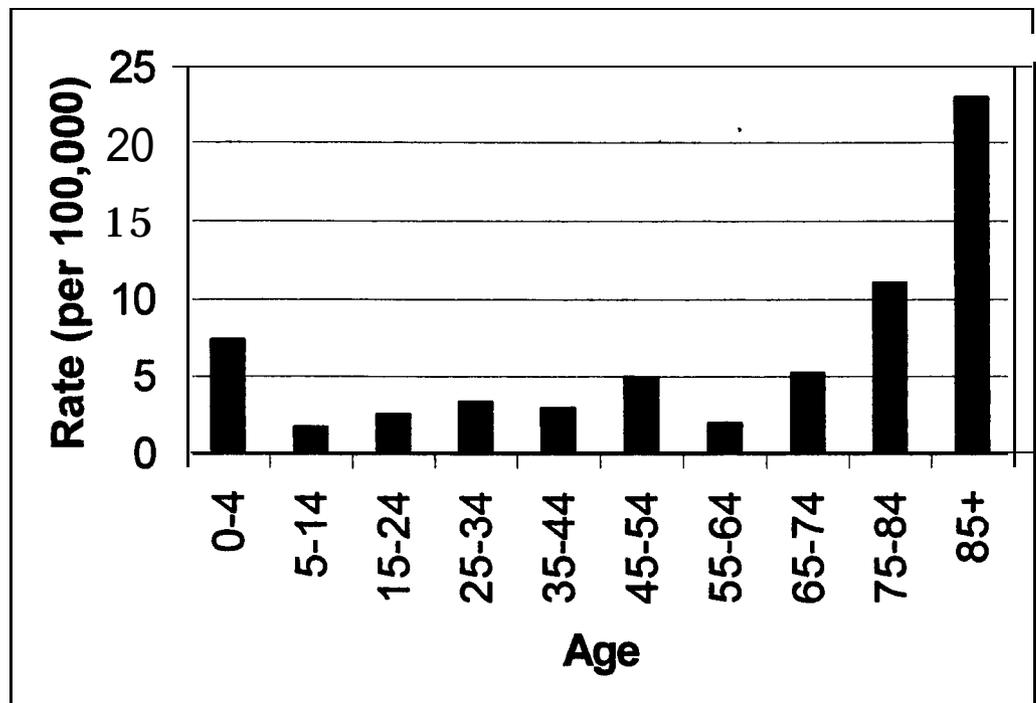
House Fire Mortality Rates (per 100,000)
by IHS Area, 1990-1994



Age of House Fire Victims

- ▶ From 1990-1994, of all American Indians, the elderly (65 years and older) had the highest house fire mortality rate (8.5 per 100,000). Children 4 years and younger had the second highest fire death rate (7.4 per 100,000).

House Fire Deaths by **Age**, American Indians
1990-1994



Educational Handouts

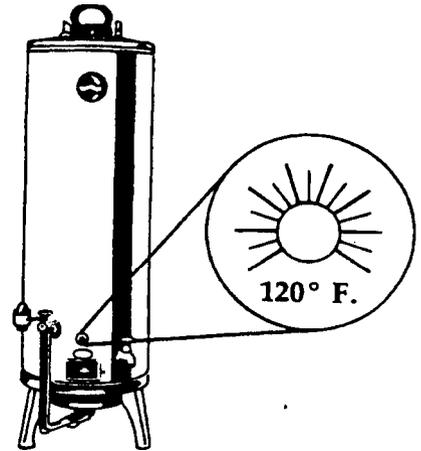
These educational materials can be used as handouts. Customize them with your own coalition or department logo and contact information.

Preventing Scalds

Scalding is caused by hot liquids, usually from tap water that is too hot, or when hot liquids are tipped over in the kitchen. Young children are at the highest risk of scald injuries.

What you can do to prevent tap water scalds

- After running sink or tub hot water for 3 minutes, check the temperature with a meat or candy thermometer. If the temperature is higher than 120° F, turn it down. Most hot water heaters have a dial that is used to adjust the water temperature.
- You may have heard that you can check how hot the water is by using your hand or elbow instead of a thermometer. But, because a child's skin is more tender than an adult's what feels pleasantly warm to an adult could actually cause scalds in a child.
- Anti-scald devices are also available for about \$15. When these are installed on a faucet, they automatically shut the water off if the water gets too hot.



Other things you can do to prevent scalds

- Use back burners to cook, and turn pot and pan handles toward the back of the stove where a child is less likely to reach.
- Don't hold your child if you are also holding a hot drink.
- Keep hot foods and drinks away from the edge of tables and counters. Don't leave them on a tablecloth where they can be grabbed by a child.

For more information, contact:

Choosing, Installing, and Maintaining Smoke Detectors

A smoke detector doubles your chances of surviving a fire by providing the early warning you need to get out of the building. But a smoke detector can do this only if it is properly installed and maintained.

What type of smoke detector should I buy?

There are two main types of smoke detectors available: ionization and photoelectric. Both detect smoke particles, but ionization detectors are more likely to false alarm from cooking. Photoelectric detectors are less likely to false alarm from cooking but are more expensive. Ionization detectors are available with hush buttons you push during a false alarm to turn off the alarm.

- ✓ To avoid possible false alarms, install ionization detectors at least 20 feet from the kitchen stove.
- ✓ If you cannot get an ionization detector at least 20 feet away from the stove, you should install a photoelectric detector instead.

How many smoke detectors do I need?

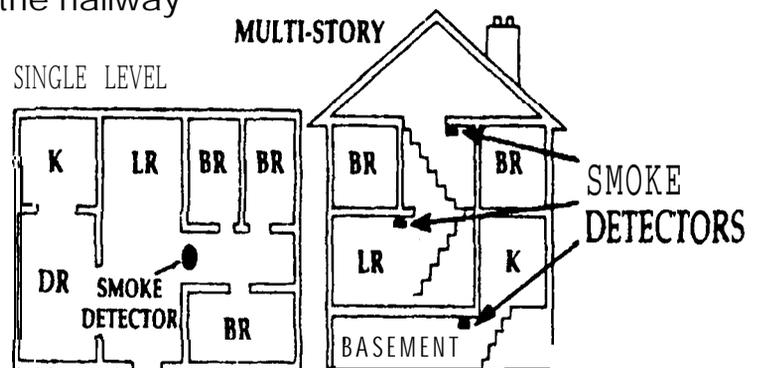
- ✓ It's very important to have a working smoke detector installed on each level of the house, especially near the bedrooms.
- ✓ If disabled persons live in the house, smoke detectors should also be installed inside the bedrooms.

Where should I put a smoke detector?

- ✓ At a minimum, install detectors in the hallway near bedrooms and in the basement.

- ✓ Install ionization detectors at least 20 feet from the stove and 10 feet from the bathroom to avoid false alarms.

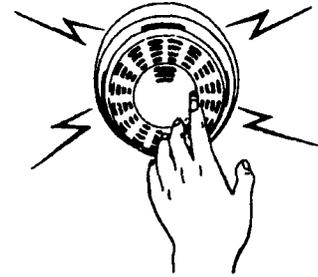
- ✓ Whether you install on the ceiling or wall, keep your smoke detectors at least four inches away from the corner where the ceiling and wall come together.



- ✓ If installing your detector on the wall, install 4-12 inches from the corner where the ceiling and wall come together.
- ✓ Tip: Detectors can be easily installed on ceilings and walls that have not been texturized using double adhesive-backed Velcro strips.

Testing and maintenance

- ✓ Test your smoke detector at least weekly by pressing the test button. For smoke detectors labeled “press and hold to test,” press the test button for up to 20 seconds before the alarm sounds. Other smoke detectors may require testing by shining a flashlight at them or using a magnet. Check your owner’s manual if you are unsure how to test your detector.
- ✓ If your smoke detector has a battery, change the battery once a year or if you hear the detector making a “chirp” sound about every minute.
- ✓ Keep your detectors clean by vacuuming gently.



For more information, contact:

Plan to get out alive — make an escape plan for your home

Does everybody in your house know what to do if a smoke detector goes off? These four steps could save your life!

1. Install smoke detectors. Keep them maintained and make sure they work.
2. Plan your escape route on a floor plan. Decide where to meet outside.
3. Discuss the escape plan with your family. Decide who will be in charge of small children if a fire starts.
4. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year. Make sure to practice at night and during the day. Many fires start at night, but smoke can turn a house pitch black even during the day.

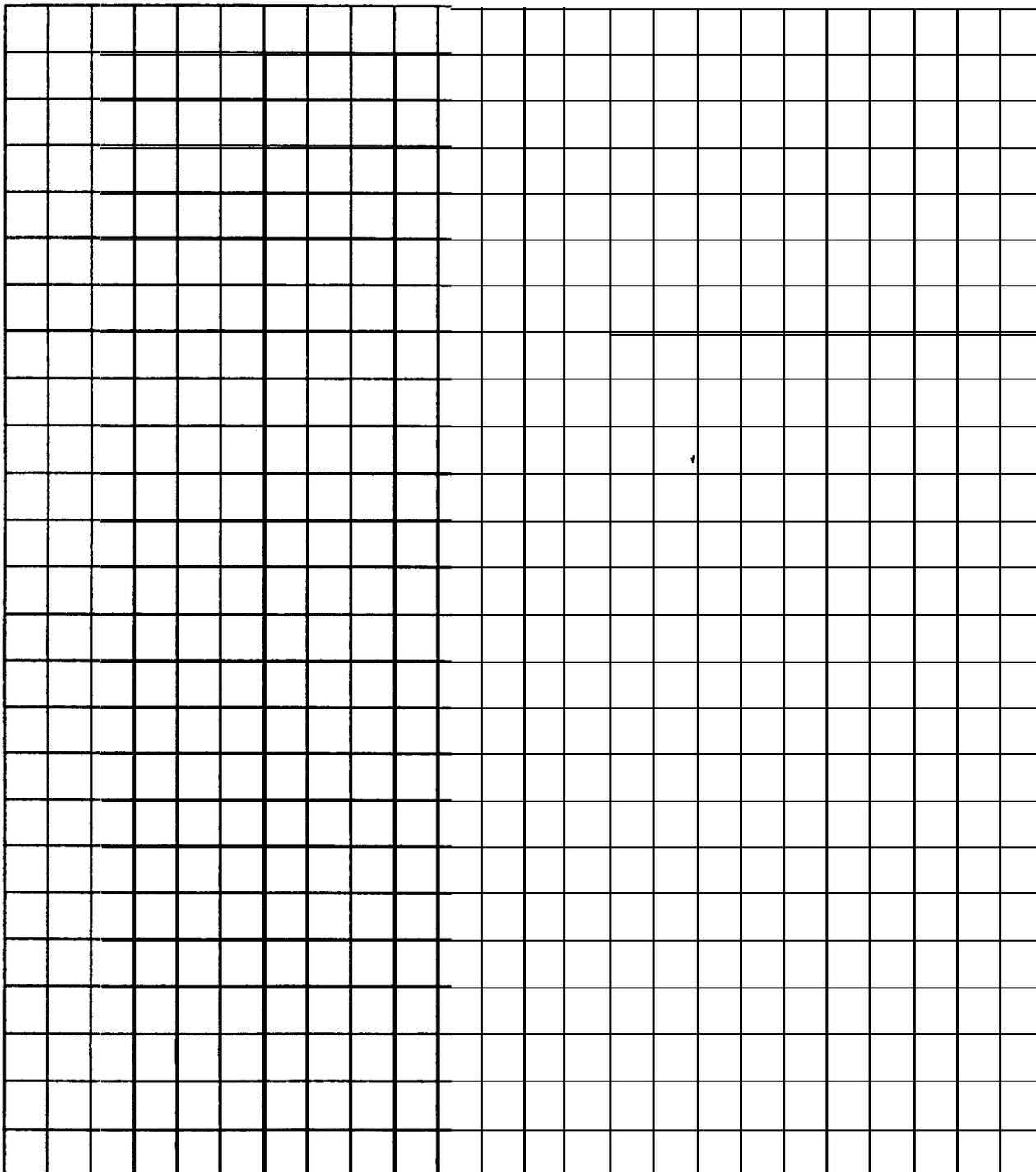
An effective escape plan

Use the attached blank grid to make your own escape plan,

- ✓ Draw the outline of your house and draw two exits from each room.
- ✓ Draw your outside meeting place on the grid.
- ✓ Practice E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills in the Home)
 1. Everybody is in their bedroom with the doors closed.
 2. Somebody tests the smoke detector to set off the alarm.
 3. Each person feels their bedroom door for heat.
 - ➔ Pretend that the door is cool. Use your main escape route through the door.
 - ➔ Or, pretend that the door is hot. Use an alternate route to escape, such as a window.
 - ➔ Change whether the door is hot or cold each time you do an exit drill.
 4. Everybody meets outside in the meeting area.
- ✓ If the smoke detector is placed outside of the bedrooms, it is safest to sleep with the doors closed. If smoke detectors are inside the bedrooms, the doors should be left open at night.

For more information, contact:

Use this grid to draw the outline of your house and an escape plan for each level of your house.



For more information, contact:

About Fire Extinguishers

What type should I use?

Fire extinguishers are rated based on the types of burning materials that they will extinguish. The ratings are:



Wood, paper, cloth,
rubber, some plastics



Grease, oil



Electrical



General purpose ABC-rated extinguishers are recommended for homes. Because these extinguishers will discharge within 6-8 seconds, they are **designed to fight small fires only**. Remember, a fire can burn out of control very rapidly. When in doubt, get out and call for help.

Where should I install a fire extinguisher?

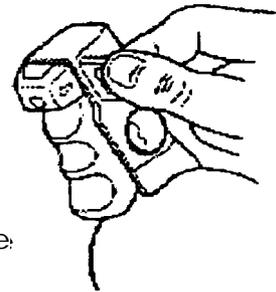
Put a fire extinguisher near potential sources of heat or fire, such as an oven or stove. At a minimum, install one in the kitchen near an exit. Additional extinguishers can be installed in utility rooms, garages, or sleeping areas. Mount your extinguisher where it is easy to reach, near an exit from the room, and 3½-5 feet above the floor.

For more information, contact:

Care and Use of Fire Extinguishers

How do I use my fire extinguisher?

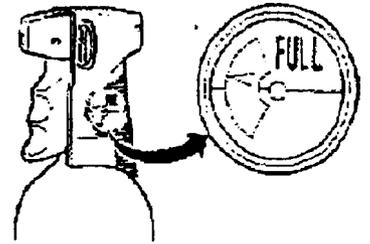
- Pull out the pin
- Stand back about 6 feet from the fire, making sure the fire is not between you and the exit
- Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire, squeeze the trigger, sweeping back and forth
- Completely discharge the extinguisher, making sure that the fire is completely out



Care and maintenance

Your fire extinguisher may not work properly if it isn't taken care of. Inspect your extinguisher often: some manufacturers recommend a weekly inspection looking at the following:

- Check extinguisher pressure. If it has a gauge, the pointer should be in the green area. If it is in the red, pressure is low and the extinguisher should be replaced or recharged.
- Check for signs of damage, misuse, or corrosion. You can prevent corrosion by cleaning the extinguisher if it gets wet or dirty.
- Make sure the pin is intact. If your extinguisher has a safety seal, make sure it is intact also.
- Make sure the nozzle is clean and unobstructed.



These instructions are general guidelines. Refer to your owner's manual for more specific information.

For more information, contact:

, Process Information & Samples

Examples of a press release, model fire code, newsletters, and other examples are included.

Indian Health Service
Injury Prevention Program
Severe Injury Surveillance Data -- Phase I

Service Unit: _____		Community: _____	Chart No. _____
Age: _____	Sex: _____	Date of Visit: - / - -	Length of Stay: _____
Nature of Injury: _____			N-Code: _____
External Cause of Injury: _____			E-Code: _____
Describe Injury Event: _____			

Indian Health Service
Injury Prevention Program
Severe Injury Surveillance Data -- Phase I

Service Unit: _____		Community: _____	Chart No. _____
Age: _____	Sex: _____	Date of Visit: <u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u>	Length of Stay: _____
Nature of Injury: _____			N-Code: _____
External Cause of Injury: _____			E-Code: _____
Describe Injury Event: _____			

Indian Health Service
Injury Prevention Program
Severe Injury Surveillance Data -- Phase I

Service Unit: _____		Community: _____	Chart No. _____
Age: _____	Sex: _____	Date of Visit: <u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u>	Length of Stay: _____
Nature of Injury: _____			N-Code: _____
External Cause of Injury: _____			E-Code: _____
Describe Injury Event: _____			

Indian Health Service
injury Prevention Program
Severe Injury Surveillance Data -- Phase II
Fire/Burn Supplemental Data

service Unit: _____		Community: _____	Chart No. _____
Age: _____	Sex: _____	Date of Visit: . / . / .	Length of Stay: _____
Nature of Injury: _____			N-Code: _____
External Cause of Injury: _____			E-Code: _____
Describe Injury Event: _____			
Place of Fire: [] A = Home B = Car C = Outdoors D = Other			
If Home (A), location of victim: [] 4 = Bedroom D = Kitchen 3 = Livingroom E = Other 2 = Bathroom		No. of exit doors in home: _____ Was victim sleeping? _____	
Ignition or heat origin: [] 4 = Cigarette F = Chimney 3 = Kitchen Stove G = Electrical Wiring 2 = Woodstove/Fireplace H = Open Pit Fire D = Kerosene Heater I = Outdoor Grill E = Other Heater J = Gasoline		K = Propane L = Home Appliance M = Matches/Lighter N = Water Heater O = Food or Drink P = Other _____	
Material first ignited: [] A = Chair or Sofa D = Clothing B = Bed E = Drapes C = Loose Papers F = Carpet		G = Cooking Grease H = Other: _____	
Was a smoke detector installed and operational: [] If yes, did the detector sound an alarm: []			
Was an operational fire extinguisher available: [] If yes, was the extinguisher used: []			
Modifications that might have prevented the injury or reduced the severity: [] [] [] []			
A = Additional Exit B = Operational Smoke Detector C = Operational Fire Extinguisher D = Sleeping Nearer to Exits E = Sleeping with Door Closed F = Escape Ladders or Rope G = Properly Installed Cooking Unit H = Properly Installed/Operating Gas Water Heater		I = Properly Installed Kerosene Heater J = Properly Installed Wood Stove K = Cleaned Chimney L = Reduced Hot Water Temperature M = Less Tip-prone Food/Drink Container N = Supervision O = Other: _____	

Community Opinionnaire

This is one example of a community opinionnaire. It is used to assess community member's opinions about fire safety as discussed in the manual text. It can be tailored to fit your community — add, change, or delete questions as you need.

Community: _____ Date: _____

Location: _____ Completed by: _____

Fire Safety

- Are your family and home safe from fire? Why or why don't you think so?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is fire safety to you and your family?
- What is the most important thing you can do to protect yourself and your family from fire?
- Do you have a smoke detector in your home? How many? Where is it located?
- How do you know if it's working? Do you check it? How often?
- Have you ever taken the batteries out or disabled it? Why?
- If a fire starts in your home, what should you do first?
- If you're asleep and a fire breaks out, how will you know?
- Will the smell of smoke wake you up?
- How much time do you think you have to get out?
- What do you think causes the most fires in your community?

The Community

- What organizations do people trust most in the community?
- Who are the people you and your neighbors really trust and really listen to?
- If you wanted to get important information to everyone in the community, how would you get the word out?
- Do people listen to the radio a lot? What stations?
- Do people read the newspaper regularly? What newspaper?
- Are there neighborhood newspapers or bulletins you read regularly?
- What places are the best to get information out: schools, stores, casino, community center?
- How about spokespeople or images used for the program...is it important that they be American Indian or have an American Indian design?

The Fire Department

- If you had a fire in your home, who would you call?
- Have you ever called the fire department? How did you reach them? Did they come quickly?
- Have you ever been reluctant to call the fire department for any reason? Why?
- If a member of the fire department or a CHR offered to install a smoke detector in your home free or charge, would you let them in?
- Do you know of any fire safety programs in your community? If so, how did you find out about it?
- Did the program change your thinking or behavior in regards to fire safety practices?
- If you wanted to promote fire safety in your community and really wanted people to listen to what you had to say, what groups/individuals should be involved in a fire safety project?

Testing Fire Safety Materials

(Show samples)

- What are your first impressions?
- Look at the picture. Is this for you or someone like you, or for somebody else?
- Would this be appropriate for use here? Why/why not?
- What does this slogan mean to you?
- Is anything wrong or confusing about this?
- Would you pick this up if you saw it on a table?
- Would you read it if you found it on your doorknob?
- How would you improve this?

Sponsorship

- What are some of the organizations or individuals in this community that are really helpful or provide good information? Who is really there when you need them?
- Which organizations really don't help you much'?
- If you wanted people in the community to install smoke detectors and learn about fire safety, what should we do? Who will people really listen to?
- Do you think that elders would be interested in a fire safety effort? How would you get them to be interested? Who would you talk to first?
- In your opinion, which organizations would be the best to sponsor a fire safety program in this community?
- Are there any organizations that shouldn't be involved in or sponsor a fire safety project?

Telephone Smoke Detector Survey

We are all aware of the benefits of face-to-face conversations with our friends and neighbors. Over a cup of coffee or tea we can catch up on each other's families, especially our children and grandchildren. But often it is difficult to find the right time to make a home visit or simply find someone at home. This challenge is particularly relevant to your efforts to discuss the risks of home fires and the prevention measures that families can take to reduce those risks.

Would a telephone call from a friend or community activist or fire department be persuasive enough to have you test your smoke detector?

Steps

- a) Your coalition evaluates the idea and agrees that it may be a useful tool
- b) Your coalition conducts a small pilot test and records lessons learned
- c) Your coalition develops publicity to alert the community to this project
- d) Coalition writes instructions on conducting telephone calls (sample attached), then trains callers in correct procedure
- d) Coalition members make telephone calls and tally results on log form
- e) Referrals are made to the appropriate group(s)
- f) A master report is generated and presented to the coalition
- g) Follow up phone calls or visits are conducted

It is always a good idea to conduct a pilot test for any project. Simply testing a few homes with telephone calls can tell you a lot of information. If several of the coalition members participate in the pilot test, then you can come together to share information and create a better product. Try no more than five calls each for the pilot test. Document the results, make the changes and determine your next steps.

Sample Script

Hello, my name is _____ and I work with the _____ Coalition. Our coalition is very concerned about home fires, especially during this winter season. Did you know that a smoke detector is the single most important device in your home to protect you and your family from fires? You may have seen our posters or heard our radio announcement regarding the dangers of home fires. Our coalition is conducting a survey on our reservation to determine if everyone has a smoke detector and if it is working.

Q1: Do you have a few minutes to answer a couple of questions?

A1: No, not at this time.

Response: I understand: could you tell me when might be a good time for me to call back? Thank you and have a nice day.

A2: Yes

Response: Thank you: this will take about 2-3 minutes.

Q2: Do you have a smoke detector?

A1: No

Response: Our coalition received funding to provide smoke detectors to families whose homes do not have a working detector. Could we arrange a time to have someone come by your home to tell you about the detector and install it for you free of charge?

A2: Yes

Response: Great! Could you describe any problems you may have had with the detector? Would you mind taking a minute while I stay on the telephone and go over to the smoke detector and push the test button to determine if it is functioning properly? Thanks, I will listen for the beeping sound.

1) Smoke detector sounds.

Response: Sounds great! Thanks for taking time to talk with me today. We hope that you never have to experience a fire. The actions you have taken we help protect your family. Just one more question. Could you tell me what you do when the alarms sounds. Every family should have an escape plan in the case of a home fire. This involves leaving your home quickly and establishing a safe place outside every one to meet. Do you have a plan?

2) Smoke detector doesn't sound.

Response: I didn't hear the beeping sound; there may be a problem. Can we arrange a time someone from our coalition to make a home visit to check your smoke detector?

Sample Telephone Log Format

Staff Name: _____

Community: _____

Date	Family Name	Address or House No.	Telephone No.	Call Results: Describe any Smoke Detector Problems & Test Results	Recommended Action

Sample Completed Telephone Log Format

Staff Name: Krissy Old Elk

Community: Three Springs

Date	Family Name	Address or House No.	Telephone No.	Call Results: Describe any Smoke Detector Problems & Test Results	Recommended Action
1/5/98	Joseph Smith	301 Buck Rd.	579-2234	No smoke detector	Referral to fire dept.
1/5/98	Annie Jones	306 Buck Rd.	579-2204	Two detectors; one in hall disconnected due to cooking; one in basement sounds	Referral to fire dept.
1/5/98	Chris Smith	311 Buck Rd.	579-2315	One detector; sounded	None
1/5/98	John Red Hat	102 Doe Rd.	579-6670	One detector; disconnected due to cooking	Referral to fire dept.

Sample Press Release

For Immediate Release
Date: June 1, 1998

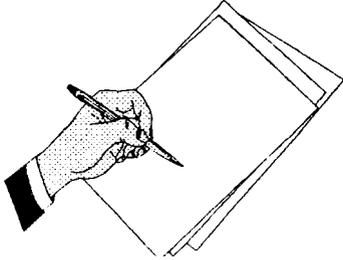
Contact: Jean Bighorn
Phone: 789-4430

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN SAFE HOME SURVEYS TO BEGIN

THREE FORKS, NEW MEXICO. (Date) -- Would you and your family wake up in time to escape if your home was on fire? Your chances of surviving a house fire double if you have a working smoke detector. The Spirit Mountain Safe Home Coalition will be visiting all homes in Three Forks to conduct fire safety surveys. Surveys will begin on June 15, 1998 for approximately six weeks. Each survey will take about 30 minutes. During these visits, smoke detectors will be installed in homes that need them. Replacement batteries and an electrical outlet cover will also be provided as needed.

The Spirit Mountain Safe Home Coalition was created to address the high rate of fire and burn injuries and deaths occurring in homes in our community. Since 1978, our community has lost 18 members to house fires. Just last month, a house fire claimed the lives of five community members. The smoke detector in this home had been disconnected. If it had been working, these people would probably still be with us today. The Spirit Mountain Safe Home Coalition will attempt to visit all homes in Three Forks by July 31. If you wish a survey, but have not been contacted by a survey team member by this time, please call Jean Bighorn at 789-4930.

Writing a Residential Smoke Detector Code



When adopting residential smoke detector codes, there are several options to consider. Many communities simply pass laws or resolutions that adopt the Uniform Fire or Building Code, which specify smoke detector requirements for new and existing homes. The second option is to write a code specific to your community.

An ideal smoke detector code would include the following components:

- Owners of all residential occupancies (including HUD) **are** required to install smoke detectors.
- Residential occupancies include: one and two family dwellings, mobile homes, modular homes, and townhouses; lodging, rooming, or boarding houses: hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts; dormitories; apartments or multi-family dwellings; and board and care.
- Applicable to new and existing buildings, regardless of when constructed.
- For a leased or rented unit, the owner must install the smoke detector, but the tenant must maintain the battery in the smoke detector if the lease or rental contract is for one month or more.
- Smoke detectors are required on each level of the building, and in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
- Existing units may have battery-powered detectors, but in all new construction after the effective date of the code, detectors shall be hardwired and interconnected.
- In new construction, at a minimum, the detector in the vicinity of the bedrooms shall be hardwired with battery backup.
- In addition to the above, smoke detectors are required in each guest room of a hotel/motel.

Enforcement of Code

- Fines for non-compliance, tampering with, or destroying a smoke detector not less than \$100, and not more than \$500.
- The Fire Department (or other agency) has the authority to write a violation notice for corrective action. If corrective action is not taken, a summons may be issued to the owner of the building for an appearance in Tribal Court.
- Fines collected will be used by the Fire Department (or other agency) for fire safety public awareness, and may be used for purchasing smoke detectors for low-income residents.



Creating Safe Homes Strengthening Tribal Communities

The Newsletter for the National Indian
Safe Home Coalition (NISHC) Program

Volume 1, Issue 1 - December 1997

Project Newsletter Initiated

The NISHC Newsletter was developed to increase communication between coalitions. It provides an opportunity to share ideas, success stories, and challenges experienced by each coalition to create a collective learning experience. Information in this newsletter comes from monthly reports, articles, news stories, and "lessons learned" submitted by each coalition. If you have any items or information that might be useful to the other coalitions, please send submissions to one of the editors listed below and they will be included in future editions

Project News

A NISHC meeting was held on Tuesday, November 18, 1997 at IHS Headquarters in Rockville, MD. US Fire Administration Representative John **Ottoson** was in attendance, as well as Rick Smith and Harold Cully, to hear progress made at the six demonstration sites. Carolyn Crump and Robert Letoumeau, from the University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center, presented an evaluation update based on their site visits to the **Lawton**, Southern Ute, and Cochiti Pueblo coalitions.

Discussion generated several ideas for increasing the NISHC Project's effectiveness. First, this newsletter is being implemented to increase communication between coalitions and to facilitate a greater sense of project identity. You are encouraged to use the project logo found at the top of this newsletter for any of your project's activities. The meeting participants also discussed the importance of providing incentives, such as smoke detectors, to community members as home surveys are conducted. Early on, this "gives something back" to the community. Coalitions are encouraged to consider this approach.

What's Happening?

This section highlights activities occurring at each coalition:

Cochiti Pueblo, New Mexico

- 0 Completing home safety surveys
- 0 Distributing smoke detectors and fire extinguishers
- 0 Will survey 68 elderly homes

Fort Berthold, North Dakota

- 0 Training local college students to conduct home safety surveys
- 0 Training **CHRs** in use of home safety surveys
- 0 ND Fire Marshall will speak to tribe

Fort Peck Tribes, Montana

- 0 Tribal resolution passed recognizing coalition
- 0 Plan to conduct home surveys

Lawton Service Unit, Oklahoma

- 0 Implemented Head Start fire safety activities
- 0 Training **CHRs** in home survey use
- 0 Conducting home safety surveys
- 0 Assessing local fire safety resources

Northern Cheyenne, Montana

- 0 Identified homes for home safety surveys
- 0 Procuring smoke detectors for distribution when conducting home safety surveys

Southern Vte Tribe, Colorado

- 0 Conducted 120 home safety surveys
- 0 Completing data analysis
- 0 Procuring safety equipment (smoke detectors, batteries, fire extinguishers)

Coalition Media Stories

In future newsletters, this section will be devoted to media stories written and published about your coalition's activities. Please submit any newspaper articles or news stories written for or about your coalition and they will be included here.

Focus On...Velcro!

This section of the newsletter will focus on ideas developed for or at the local coalition-level. At the recent NISHC meeting in Rockville, a great idea concerning the installation of smoke detectors was discussed. Instead of having to find a power drill and screws to install a smoke detector, why not use Velcro adhesive strips? It's inexpensive, durable and makes detector installation "as quick as a rip!" This might be an idea to consider if your coalition plans to install them in homes in your community. Thank you to Rick Smith for sharing the idea.

Evaluation and Technical Assistance

As some of you know, Carolyn Crump and Robert Letoumeau are on contract to IHS to conduct an evaluation of the six NISHC coalitions. To date, they have made three site visits. Additional visits will be

made in early 1998 to the remaining three sites in North Dakota and Montana. Briefly, the purposes of the evaluation are three-fold:

- 0 To assess the development of each coalition
- 0 To provide technical assistance
- 0 To introduce the coalitions to self-evaluation skills

If your coalition needs advice on ways to address issues or problems, please don't hesitate to contact them at 919-966-5598 or via **email** at rletoum@sph.unc.edu. They are available to offer assistance to your coalition.



Lawton, OK site visit. From left to right: Harold Cully, Robert Letourneau, Dena Asenap, Angie LaPointe, Nina Youngman & Albert Tahsequah



National Indian Safe Home Coalition

Harold Cully, Injury Prevention Specialist
Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service
5 Corporate Plaza
3625 NW 56th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73 112



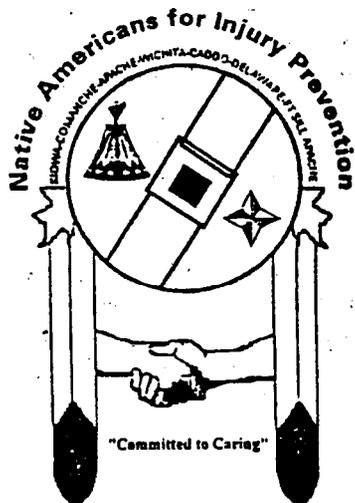
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Community Health Representative/Emergency Medical Services

**** NEWSLETTER ****



September 1997



In October 1996, the Native Americans for Injury Prevention Coalition were awarded a 3-year \$20,000 grant from the U.S. Fire Administration.

The long-term grant will focus on reducing fire and burn injury deaths and disabilities among the people living in the **Lawton** Service Area. The primary target groups are the children and elderly--the highest risk.

The Native Americans for Injury Prevention Coalition propose in the first year, to develop a home survey form and conduct the home safety surveys to assist in determining the need of the community member (i.e., distribution of smoke detectors, replacement battery campaign). The home survey will be used to assess all aspects of safety in the home with an emphasis on fire safety.

The Coalition will also work in establishing a fire/burn registry for the **Lawton** area tribes in the first year. This information would help determine what specific burn injuries are **occurring** in this area and any other factors that might be involved.

The increased risk of children to be injured in residential fires and a strong interest by the committee has prompted the following objectives: in the first year, the committee will also conduct fire safety education for pre-school and headstart children in the **Lawton** Service Area. The Coalition will have several members trained in the "Learn not to Burn" curriculum that would assist in the development of this intervention plan.

It is anticipated that these activities will be conducted by members of the Native Americans for Injury Prevention Coalition with assistance from local, state, and federal agencies in this area.

FIRE SAFETY PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 5-11, 1997

WHEREAS, the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board is the duly elected body representing the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and is empowered to act on behalf of the Tribes, All actions shall be adherent provisions set forth in the 1960 Constitution and By-Laws and Public Law #83-449; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Executive Board has become aware of the need for a Reservation wide Committee to gather information, appropriate funding, promote injury prevention activities, provide public education and conduct intervention activities; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Health Department has received a Fire Safety Grant which requires that a Committee be formed to administer the grants funds; and

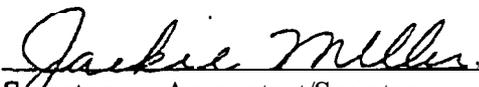
WHEREAS, such a Committee is needed to reduce injuries of all types for all residents of the Fort Peck Reservation; NOW

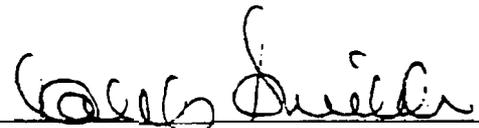
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Executive Board officially recognizes the Fort Peck Injury Prevention Committee as representing the Fort Peck Tribes and empowers the Committee to act on behalf of the Tribes in matters relating to injury prevention activities.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned Secretary Accountant of the Tribal Executive Board of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Executive Board is composed of 12 voting members of whom 12 constituting a quorum were present at a Special meeting duly called and convened this 14th day of July, 1997, that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 11 for, 1 not voting.

APPROVED:


Secretary Accountant/Secretary

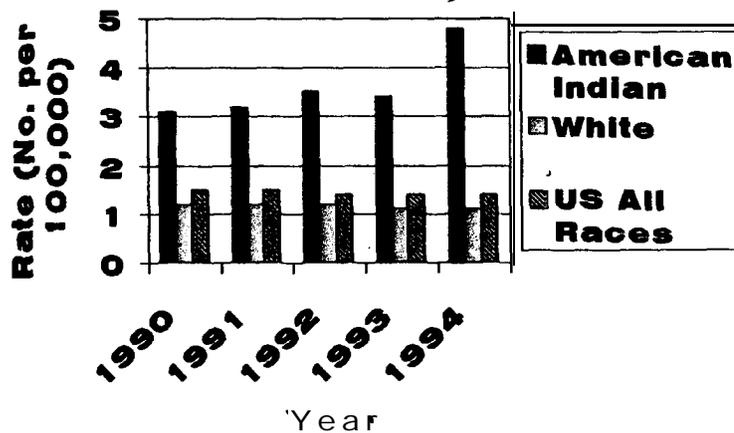

Chairman / V!
Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board

Superintendent
Fort Peck Agency

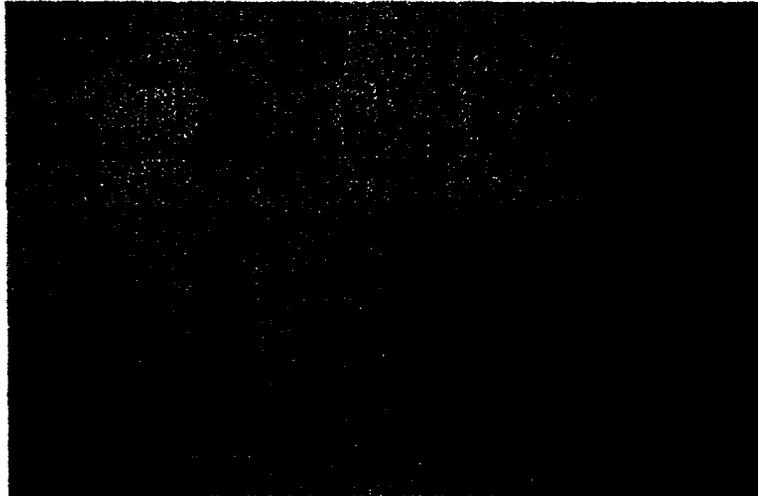
Safe Home Coalition Presentation

A Community Approach to Reducing **Fire/Burn Injuries** Among American Indians

Fire/Burn Injuries
Indians, Whites and AM U.S.



The Tragedy of **Fire...**



Fire/Burn Injury Risk: Factors

- ◆ **Smoker** in the home
- ◆ Trailer houses
- ◆ Non functioning or absent smoke detector
- ◆ **Very** young & very old persons
- ◆ Rural locations

Safe Home **Coalition** **Members**

- ◆ Local Fire Department
- ◆ Tribal Health Authority
- ◆ Housing Authority
- ◆ Tribal Council
- ◆ Emergency Medical Services
- Community volunteers

Safe Home **Coalition** **Members**

- ◆ School representatives
- ◆ Headstart programs
- ◆ **CHRs**
- ◆ Local businesses
- ◆ Community service org.
- ◆ Community Health Nurses

Safe Home Coalition's Goal:

- ➔ To reduce fire and burn injuries among our tribal members to zero!

Sate Home **Coalition**

- ◆ Coalition% Goal
- ◆ Membership
- ◆ Action Plan
- ◆ Resources needed

Safe Home Coalition Activities

- ◆ Gather community specific data
- ◆ Increase public awareness
- ◆ Install / inspect smoke detectors
- ◆ Provide homeowner training
- ◆ Support Tribal adoption of a smoke detector ordinance

Specific Needs from **Tribal** Council

- ◆ Financial
- ◆ Resolution of support
- ◆ Coalition support/membership
- ◆ Council representation
- ◆ Laws/ordinances
- ◆ **Access** to tribal data
- ◆ Media exposure

Selection of Smoke Detectors

- ◆ Photoelectric detectors ?
- ◆ ionization detectors ?
- ◆ **Price**
- ◆ False alarms, sensitivity to smoke and vapors

Typical Problems with Smoke Detectors

- ◆ improper detector location
- Installation of wrong type of smoke detector
- ◆ Disconnection
- ◆ Dead Battery
- ◆ Failure to test monthly
- ◆ Lack of cleaning

Ideal Community Fire Safety Plan

- ◆ Everyone's home is protected by a properly installed detector.
- ◆ Annual safety inspections of smoke detectors
- ◆ Tribal smoke detector ordinance
- ◆ Escape plan for each home

Potential Community Data Sources

- + Fire department
- ◆ Housing authority
- ◆ Tribal insurance company
- ◆ Police records
- ◆ Health Clinic/hospital
- ◆ Emergency medical services

Financial Support Needed

- ◆ To purchase smoke detectors
- ◆ To develop public information & educational materials
- ◆ **To buy approved fire safety curricula for school children**
- ◆ **To** pay for labor costs for inspection and installation of smoke detectors

Safe Home Coalition Timeline

- ◆ Basic data gathering
- ◆ Media
- ◆ Secure needed **resources**
- ◆ Home assessments
- ◆ Installation of smoke detectors
- ◆ Impact evaluation of coalition

Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics

Offers educational materials on fire and burn safety
141 Northwest Point Blvd.
PO Box 927
Elk Grove Village, IL 60009-0927
(800) 433-9016
www.aap.org

AmerInd Risk Management Corporation

Offers educational materials on fire and burn safety
2201 San Pedro NE, #1-220
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(800) 3552007

Indian Health Service Injury Prevention Web Page

Provides information about the IHS Injury Prevention Program's mission and staff, describes the injury problem for American Indians, and provides resource information and links with other agencies and organizations involved in injury prevention.
www.injprev.ihs.gov

National Fire Protection Association

A catalog listing of educational materials such as books, pamphlets, videos, and "Learn Not to Burn" curricula for school children. Publishes national fire safety codes and a bimonthly journal.
PO Box 9101
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02269-9101
(800) 344-3555
www.nfpa.org

National Indian Safe Home Coalition

A coalition of Federal agencies and national organizations that have an interest in reducing death and injury in American Indians
Harold Cully, Injury Prevention Specialist
Oklahoma Area IHS
5 Corporate Plaza
3625 NW 56th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 951-3852

National Safe Kids Campaign

Assist communities in establishing local Safe Kids Coalitions; offer educational materials and training for local **coalitions**; financial support for targeted injury interventions

1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Suite 100

Washington, DC 2004-I 701

(202) 662-0600

www.safekids.org

National Safety Council

Offers educational materials, newsletter, and safety conference; local chapters

PO Box 11933

Chicago, IL 60611

(800) 62 1-7629

www.nsc.org

US Consumer Product Safety Commission

Offers fire safety educational materials, product recall, and product safety information

Washington, DC 20207

(800) 638-2772 (product safety & recalls)

(301) 504-0051 (fax-on-demand; call from headset of **fax machine**)

www.cpsc.gov

US Fire Administration

Offers a variety of public fire safety and prevention materials such as media kits, curricula, materials for visually and handicapped persons, and a large resource book.

16825 S. **Seton** Ave.

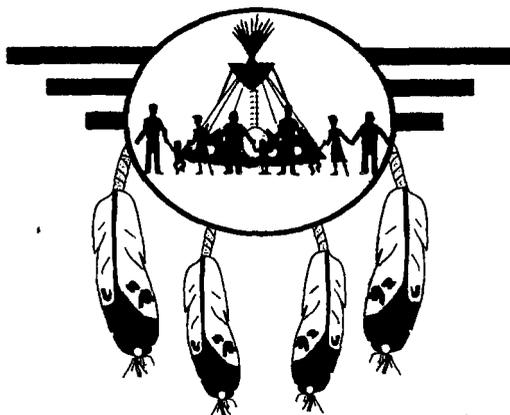
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

(301) 447-1 000

www.usfa.fema.gov

Local contacts that may offer fire safety/prevention materials:

- State fire marshal, local fire department
- Bureau of Indian Affairs safety officer or fire department
- Extension Service
- American Red Cross
- Optimist club



This book was written by Diana Kuklinski, Phoenix Area Indian Health Service, with assistance from Harold Cully, Oklahoma Area Indian Health Service, Richard Smith III, Indian Health Service, and representatives of the U.S. Fire Administration, and University of North Carolina.

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