



NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2022

Hydrant Flow Testing

TSAG's Fire Field Officer Joe Zasada (middle left, bottom right) is seen here conducting hydrant flow testing in Enoch Cree Nation as part of our fire safety inspections. Hydrant flow testing is a critical component to fire safety to ensure that there will be sufficient water and pressure accessible for Firefighters should a fire occur. Joe teamed up with TSAG's Circuit Rider Troubleshooter, Blair Campbell (top left, bottom left) to conduct the flow test. While Joe opened the downstream hydrant, Blair measured the drop in pressure from the upstream hydrant and ensured that the fire pump turned on to re-elevate the pressure. In addition to testing for fire safety, regular flushing of hydrants at the end of a distribution line is important to flush out stagnant water and keep drinking water safe!



TSAG Video Project Underway!

We are working with The Creative Hive to develop informational videos about who we are at TSAG and why we do what we do. The fantastic folks with The Creative Hive stopped by our office and joined us in Alexander First Nation this month to chat and film some members of our team! Stay tuned to our social media for updates on the upcoming videos.

Thank you to The Creative Hive for helping us tell our story!





Restoring The Land

When a well finishes producing oil and gas, usually after about 20 years, the last stage of a well's lifecycle begins. This step is called reclamation.

Kisik Environmental Services, a TSAG venture company, formed a joint venture with Solstice Environmental Management in 2021 to complete a Site Rehabilitation Program (SRP) for an oil and gas site closure on behalf of Louis Bull Tribe. The first community plan for the SRP included:

- Surface equipment removal
- Pipeline abandonment
- Downhole well abandonments
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESA)

The next community plan will include phase II ESA's, remediation, and reclamation.

An ESA is a process that investigates the likelihood of contaminants in the biophysical parts of the environment (i.e., land, air, and water) through the food chain to human receptors. There are various phases for ESA's. Phase I is essentially a preliminary investigation that looks at things like past and current land use on a particular site which determines the need for further evaluation. Phase II involves intrusive sampling of the land, air, or water to determine the presence of contaminants.



Land remediation refers to the process of reversing or containing pollution in the environment. During remediation, polluted or contaminated soil, sediment, surface water, or groundwater is removed to reduce the environmental impact.

Reclamation involves physical reconstruction of soils and terrain to its former or other productive uses. In other words, it is a method of turning waste land into good land for residential, social, commercial, or industrial purposes. This involves the removal of structures and decontamination and land surface reconstruction such as contouring, soil replacement, and revegetation.

Alberta has developed a national reputation for its environmental regulatory structure. Site abandonment and reclamation work in Alberta's aging oil and gas fields has resulted in over 62 thousand reclamation certificates being issued. However, the pace of reclamation has not kept up with levels of development. At the end of 2010, there were more than 47 thousand abandoned and uncertified wells in Alberta. Between 1963 and 2010, more than 350 thousand wells were drilled in Alberta. Ultimately, Alberta's growing population — requiring more housing, food, and water — together with increasing climate crisis events, will see an increased demand for land reclamation in the very near future.

By restoring the land, it is re-allowed to thrive and remain conducive to fertile soil and other areas of growth. This restores the balance in the land and the ecosystem as a whole.



Zero Waste Ambassador Program

TSAG has supported the delivery of a Zero Waste Ambassador Program at three First Nations schools for the 2021-22 school year. They are: Chief Jacob Memorial School, Nakoda Elementary School, and Big Belly Middle School. The program includes five modules with activities and lessons for students to learn about environmental stewardship through waste reduction. Elizabeth Romo Rabago, an Environmental Practitioner and Impact Entrepreneur, has been developing and delivering the Zero Waste Ambassador Program and is currently wrapping up the final modules for this school year which include, vermicomposting, gardening, and a waste audit.

In vermicomposting, students learn about how worms can break down food for waste into high quality nutrients for plants and interact with the worms to see them in action. For the gardening module, students made their own planters to plant wildflowers using soil and compost made by the worms, helping them understand the importance of plants, wildlife, and the joys of gardening. For the last module, waste auditing was completed by Elizabeth with the help of the students to measure the amount of waste produced in the classroom. This helped the students understand more about the waste they produce, and they were able to compare their results to those at the beginning of the school year (before they had begun diverting waste through vermicomposting).

We want to thank Elizabeth for all her fantastic work with the Zero Waste Ambassadors Program, and congratulate all the students who participated this school year!

Gardening module



Vermicomposting module



Waste auditing





ACRS Courses Now Open for Registration!

We're partnering with Olds College to offer two Gravel Road Maintenance Grader Training courses this August! The first course takes place August 16-18th 2022, and the second is August 30-September 1st, 2022. We are also pleased to be offering Mixed Heavy Equipment Training, which is taking place August 22-26th, 2022 at Olds College as well. These comprehensive courses are first-come-first-served and registration will fill up quickly! Please keep in mind that only one participant from each individual First Nation will have their costs reimbursed. Any additional participants will be put on a wait list and will be enrolled if a spot becomes available. More information on the experience and tools required for these courses can be found on our social media or through the following links:

**GRAVEL
ROAD
MAINTENANCE**
**AUGUST
16,17,18**

**GRAVEL
ROAD
MAINTENANCE**
**AUG/SEP
30,31,1**

**MIXED
HEAVY
EQUIPMENT
TRAINING**
**AUGUST
22,23,24,25,26**



Camping Season Safety

It's officially summer and for many of us that means weekends spent camping and evenings relaxing by the fire. However, it's important to know how to properly care for your fire while camping so that everyone you are with has a safe and enjoyable experience!

Fire Bans

First things first – ensure you're aware of any fire bans in your area. Based on long term trends and not on daily weather, fire bans are implemented to prevent human-caused fires. Local hazards, forecasted weather conditions, moisture levels, the regional wildfire situation, and the availability of responders are all considered before fire bans go into effect.

Contain that Fire!

Be sure to use a fire pit when available. If there isn't a designated fire pit and you'll be making your own, be sure to:

- Make a circle about one metre around.
- Dig or scrape down to the mineral soil.
- Clear away any flammable materials within one metre of the pit.

Remember, proper fire pits keep your fire contained and in control.

Burn, Baby, Burn

Campfires should be started **WITHOUT** the use of gasoline. Fire starters such as crumpled paper and a match are safer to use and don't endanger you or the surrounding environment like gasoline would. Ensure that you are always tending to your fire once started. Fires should never be left unattended.

Circle up for Safety

Donna Strachan, one of our Fire Field Officers, has many more resources for campfire safety. After teaching fire safety for more than 25 years, Donna is passionate about keeping people safe around fires.

"Build your campfire with the safety circle," Donna tells us, referring to the practice of drawing approximately a four foot circle around the fire (1-2 metres on each side) to prevent burn injuries and especially to protect children.

Finale

When it's time to put your fire out, be sure you're soaking it thoroughly with water, covering the logs and embers, stirring, and adding more water until everything is cool to the touch. Campfires are fun if handled safely. Donna shares her parting thoughts with us on campfire safety:

"Bring people together, spark new ideas, kindle strong friendships, radiate warmth, no smoking, be a good storyteller, and don't go to bed fired up."



SOCIAL MEDIA CONTEST



We ran our very first social media giveaway this month and had lots of engagement from our community! We want to thank everyone who commented on our post to enter our giveaway, it was lovely to hear what you all are looking forward to this summer.

Sarah Cole was our giveaway winner and she will be receiving her prize in the mail. We hope to have more fun giveaways in the future, so be sure to be following us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, and LinkedIn!

