



Home of the Denduu Gwich'in

Birch Creek Tribal Council

Tribal Council Newsletter

February 2016

Hello...

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you've had a great start to the New Year. The Birch Creek Council is excited for new opportunities and growth this year. Our focus for the past couple years has been a lot on planning, trainings, and employment development. It is our goal to implement good, sustaining programs and projects for Birch Creek, and I will continue to seek out all opportunities available to us. Another goal of ours is to train and build up our workforce in Birch Creek so that every job that becomes available can be filled.

Some things that we are looking to do this year are to clear up the area in middle of town and use that as a meeting/picnic area, getting our electric utility back on PCE and do upgrades, moving the clinic to the Tribal building, and look at the feasibility and beginning planning stages of using a part of the Tribal building as a washeteria. We will be scheduling community meetings in the near future to discuss community plans and our tribal programs. I look forward to seeing you all and hope to hear all of your input on what you want to see happen in your community.

Congratulations to HAZWOPER Class

Lance Whitwell, of RATNET, Inc. in Venetie conducted a HAZWOPER certification class in Birch Creek in December 2015. Seven tribal members were certified as a result. Pictured below are Victor James, Winston James, Mary James, Lawrence James, Oskar James, and Vincent Williams.



Tribal News

Tribal Environmental Program

Thanks to the EPA Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) the Birch Creek Tribe has begun implementing a new tribal environmental program. We have not had this program since 2011 and are pleased to reintroduce it! We will be planning community meetings and assessments in which we will determine Birch Creek's environmental priorities and needs.

Community Activities Committee

Anyone in Birch Creek is welcome to join the volunteer activities committee to help plan fun events and activities to do in Birch Creek. If you want to share your great ideas contact Venessa Joseph at (907) 662-5331.

Upcoming Rural Landfill Operator Training with Lance Whitwell February 22nd to the 25th

Lance Whitwell will be returning to Birch Creek to conduct a Rural Alaska Landfill Operator Training and to begin work on our Solid Waste Management Plan. All community members are welcome and encouraged to attend the training free of charge!

Employment & Education

Employment

- Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Part-time, Birch Creek
- Alternate Airport Operator, Birch Creek

Scholarships

- BCTC Higher Education **DUE APRIL 30th**, get application at tananachiefs.org, or at TCC office

Trainings/Classes

- Construction Trades Technology courses, Fort Yukon, AK
 - Intro to Facility Maintenance, interior repairs, flooring installation, cabinet installation, appliance troubleshooting and repair, and more!
 - Contact Edward Alexander at the IAC Yukon Flats center for more information and registration at 1-800-709-8566

Upcoming Events

March

- March 14th- 18th - TCC Annual Convention, Fairbanks
- March 19th - Doyon Annual Meeting, Fairbanks
- March TBD - community meeting, Birch Creek


Burn Wise


Program of U.S. EPA


BURN THE RIGHT WOOD, THE RIGHT WAY, IN THE RIGHT WOOD-BURNING APPLIANCE


Did you know that by changing the way you burn wood you can save money, reduce air pollution and protect your health?


Here are a few simple tips to make your fire burn hotter, keep your wallet fatter and keep your local air cleaner and healthier.


 **Season all firewood.** All firewood should be split, securely covered or stored, and aged for at least six months. Seasoned wood burns hotter, cuts fuel consumption and reduces the amount of smoke your appliance produces.


 **Choose the right firewood.** Hardwoods are the best. Never burn trash or treated wood which can emit toxic air pollutants.


 **Start it right.** Use only clean newspaper or dry kindling to start a fire. Never use gasoline, kerosene, charcoal starter, or a propane torch.


 **Don't let the fire smolder.** Many people think they should let a fire smolder overnight. But reducing the air supply does little for heating and increases air pollution.


 **Clean ashes from your wood-burning appliance.** Excess ashes can clog the air intake vents reducing efficiency. Be sure to dispose of ashes in a metal container away from the house or any flammable material to reduce the risk of fire.


 **Keep your chimney clean.** A clean chimney provides good draft for your wood-burning appliance and reduces the risk of a chimney fire. Have a certified professional inspect your chimney once a year.

 **Be a good neighbor.** Follow best practices for burning wood. Always remember to comply with state and local codes and check your local air quality forecast.

 **Follow instructions.** Operate your wood-burning appliance according to the manufacturer's instructions and follow all maintenance procedures.

 **Upgrade to cleaner equipment.** EPA-certified wood stoves and fireplace inserts burn cleaner and burn wood more efficiently emitting less particle pollution than older models.

 **Size matters.** Choose the right-sized appliance for your needs. If your wood-burning appliance is too big for your room or house, the fuel will smolder and create more air pollution.

 For more information on how to burn wise, go to www.epa.gov/burnwise

Source: www.epa.gov/burnwise

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