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PRESS RELEASE

NEMO Launches Wildfire Awareness Campaign for Children in Toledo

Belmopan, December 10, 2025.

The Ministry of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management, through the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), launched a Wildfire Awareness Campaign for Children from several wildfire-prone communities in the Toledo District on December 4, 2025.

Fifty children from the villages of San Pedro Columbia, San Miguel, San Antonio, San Jose, and Na Luum Ca participated in the day's activities. The programme builds on recent Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for adults in these villages, ensuring that both parents and children are better prepared to address wildfire risks in their communities.

The initiative was carried out in partnership with Galen University, with funding support from the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT). Using the "How Taiga Became Faiya Taiga" educational book and mascot, created by Dr. Gail Lash, the team delivered wildfire safety lessons in a simple, enjoyable, and relatable way for young learners.

During the morning session, children learned the basics of how fires start, how they spread, and why wildfires can become dangerous. In the afternoon, the students participated in interactive fire-safety exercises, role-playing ten emergency scenarios in groups.

Hon. Henry Charles Usher, Minister of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management, highlighted the importance of involving young people in disaster preparedness, stating, "Resilience starts with awareness. When our children understand how to stay safe, they help protect not just themselves but their entire community. This programme is one more step toward building stronger, safer villages across Belize."

Each child received school supplies and a Faiya Taiga scarf, serving as a small reminder of their role in keeping their families and communities safe. The Ministry and NEMO extend appreciation to Galen University, PACT, Dr. Gail Lash, community leaders, teachers, and parents for their support in making the activity a success.

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