

THE DISTRICT 6 DISPATCH

A public service newsletter from Okanogan County Fire District 6
 “Serving the upper Methow Valley from Gold Creek to Lost River”

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Citizen Firefighters

In the Methow Valley, Okanogan County Fire District #6 protects more than 3,500 structures within an area of approximately 300 square miles. This is done with 38 personnel, only 4 of whom are full time salaried employees.

Your volunteer firefighters are local citizens who support their families by working a variety of jobs. However, when they respond to your call for help, they become firefighters. These dedicated individuals put their own lives on hold to help out their friends, neighbors, and in many cases total strangers 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

OCFD #6 firefighters average 130 hours of

training annually. Most of this training is received locally, but it's not uncommon for volunteers to give up their weekends or take time off of work so they can travel to additional classes.

Between the Carlton, Twisp, Winthrop, and Mazama stations, OCFD #6 volunteers respond to an average of 250 calls each year. The next time you pull over to let a fire



OCFD #6 Volunteers at a Saturday Vehicle Extrication Class near Carlton

truck pass, take a minute to think. Your local firefighters are mostly volunteers. They do more than repair cars, sell property, and deliver gravel and concrete. They protect your investment in our community.

Volunteers Needed

OCFD #6 is looking for firefighters. We need volunteers for our Carlton, Winthrop, and Mazama stations.

If you or someone you know:

- Is over 18 and lives in

our community

- Is willing to submit to our background check
- Has a desire to help others
- Enjoys hard work and having fun

- Is looking for a challenge

Please contact Division Chief Brian McAuliffe by phone– 996-2227 or by email— [bmcauliffe@](mailto:bmcauliffe@okanogancountyfd6.com)

okanogancountyfd6.com

OCFD #6 Recieves Another FEMA Grant

OCFD#6 has been awarded a \$261,000 grant toward the purchase of a new 3,000 gallon water tender.

Division Chief Ottis Buzzard wrote the grant requesting FEMA funds to replace the District's Twisp tender.

The current Twisp tender was purchased used and converted to fire service use. It does not meet the current standards and retrofitting would be cost prohibitive. The grant stipulates that once the current Twisp tender is sold, it can not be returned to fire service use.

"At that time it was the best op-

tion available to meet our needs" remarked OCFD #6 Commissioner Roy Reiber. "This new tender will be much more practical and user friendly" continued Reiber.

The new tender will be almost identical to the one in Winthrop that the District purchased in 2006.



OCFD #6's Winthrop Tender

There will be a few minor differences to account for FEMA's requirements and changes in industry standards.

Having two nearly identical tenders will help reduce confusion on the fire ground.

Equipment will be located in the same place on each apparatus and operators from each station will be familiar with the systems of both vehicles.

Did You Remember?

Yes, it's that time of year again. Daylight Savings time. March 13th was the day to set your clocks ahead one hour and **change the battery in your smoke detectors.**

Nationally, the common denominator in most deadly structure fires is the absence of a working smoke detector.

Smoke detectors should be

cleaned and tested at least once a month. They can be gently vacuumed out or blown out with a can of compressed air (like what you would use on your computer, not your air compressor set at 100 + psi). To test your smoke detector, simply push and hold the "test" button for 10 seconds while wearing ear plugs. Purposely burning something is not recommended. Smoke detectors over

ten years old should be replaced.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for **November 6th.** This will be the next time that you will need to **change the battery in your smoke detectors.**

If you have any questions about smoke detectors, please contact OCFD #6 Division Chief Brian McAuliffe at 996-2227.

Carlton has a New Station Captain

Brian Colin is OCFD #6's newly appointed Station Captain in Carlton.

Colin is taking over for Bill Colyar. Colyar recently started a new job in Bridgeport. Although his new work schedule restricts his availability too much to remain

Station Captain, Colyar will still continue to volunteer as a firefighter.

"Brian is the natural choice for this position. He's a knowledgeable firefighter and I have no doubt that he'll do well," remarked Chief Don Waller.

Colin was the Carlton station's Lieutenant for just over 3 years before stepping down and moving to Winthrop. He's now a home owner in the Carlton area once again and is excited to be back.

Colin says that his top priority is to recruit some new members.

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Tim Priest. Tim started volunteering for OCFD #6's Winthrop station in 2008, but started his volunteer career with Twisp Fire and Rescue in 2003.

Tim recently began working for Motion Auto Supply in Twisp.

Tim says that becoming a volunteer firefighter "started out as being something to do that sounded fun, but quickly



Firefighter I Tim Priest

became something that I love."

Tim moved to the Valley from Harrington, WA in 1994 with his parents Tim and Fay Priest. He graduated from Liberty Bell High School in 2003 and holds an Associate degree in Automotive Technology from Wenatchee Valley Community College.

When asked why he chose to

move back to the Methow after college? Tim replied "Besides my family being here, I never knew how much I missed this place until I was gone."

Tim is the most recent OCFD #6 volunteer to receive Firefighter 1 certification. This accomplishment has earned him a black helmet and distinction among his peers.

If you see Tim during your search for some elusive auto part, take a minute to say hello and thank him for his 8 years of service to our community.

Two for North Bend Please

Bill McAdow and Zane Giesen are two of the newest graduates of the Washington State Fire Training Academy Burn to Learn and Search and Rescue 1 classes.

These two volunteers sacrificed a weekend to travel to North Bend, WA in order to attend two consecutive days of training.

"It reinforced previous training

that I've had locally and allowed me to practice techniques that I've only talked about before," remarked McAdow.

Giesen said "I've been in practice burns before, but watching how quickly the heat layers develop in that controlled environment was amazing."

Sunday brought a temperature of 40 degrees, driving rain, and howling winds for the Search and Rescue class. Bill and Zane said they still enjoyed it the best.

Both firefighters said the training was very beneficial and would definitely return to the Academy for more classes given the opportunity.

Outdoor Burning

Spring will soon be here (sooner in some parts of the Valley than others). In the Methow, with Spring comes smoke.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE.) has guidelines for outdoor burning that are not only good practices, but are

State laws.

OCFD #6 recommends that you consult the DOE. website (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/outdoor_woodsmoke/residentialburn.htm) prior to lighting any burn piles. Following these guidelines will ensure that you are

complying with the most current State rules and regulations.

Please remember to burn safely and responsibly. Leaving a fire unattended is illegal and your fire is not out until all the ashes are cool to the touch.

**A PUBLIC SERVICE NEWSLETTER FROM
OKANOGAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 6**

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Climbing for a Cause, Again

On March 6th local volunteer firefighters Mark Crum, Jeremiah Fosness, and Bill McAdow each climbed 1,311 stairs in the Scott Firefighter Stair Climb while wearing full bunker gear and a SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus).



Mark Crum (red helmet) waiting his turn to take on downtown Seattle's Columbia Center

"I was surprised at how quickly I got tired. Training on one flight of stairs is definitely not the same as climbing 69 of them," remarked McAdow. His completion time of 23:30 was unofficial due to the loss of his tracking chip at some point during the climb. He's already said that he'll keep better track of it next year.

While Mark Crum (24:32) shaved 2 minutes off his time from last year, Jeremiah Fosness (27:10) shattered his previous time by over 12 minutes. Fosness attributed this feat to adjustments he made in his training and race strategy.

The proceeds for this event are used by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for blood cancer research and patient services. Last



(L to R) Jeremiah Fosness, Bill McAdow, and Mark Crum

(Backdrop) The Columbia Center

year over 1,500 firefighters representing 247 departments from the U.S., Canada, and New Zealand raised a record \$780,000. The final numbers for this year's event had not been tallied by press time.