

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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Help Defend Your Home Against Wildfire

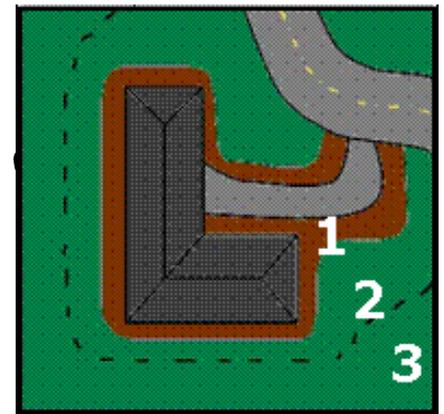
Defensible space is the area around a structure where fuels have been reduced to decrease the threat of wildfire. Nationally, two factors have emerged as the primary determinants of a structure’s ability to survive a wildfire: the type of roofing material used and the quality of defensible space around it.

Although each situation is different and a customized plan for your site depends on a variety of factors, the 3 zone approach is a commonly accepted practice which provides good defensible space management.

Zone 1 extends from the drip line of the roof or any attached structure (deck, etc.) out 15 feet

from the structure. All flammable vegetation should be removed from this area.

Zone 2 is the transition area between Zone 1 and 3. This reduced fuel zone extends to a minimum of 100 feet from the structure. Stressed, diseased, dead or dying trees and shrubs should be removed. The remaining trees should be thinned so that there is at least 10 feet between the crowns and be pruned to a height of 10 feet above the ground or 1/2 their height (whichever is the least). Grasses and weeds should be maintained to a



Graphic showing the three zones.

maximum height of 6 inches.

Zone 3 extends to the property line. Fuels treatment is not necessary in this area, but will enhance wildfire safety.

By creating a defensible space around your home, you are giving firefighters room to work.

Defensible Space Tips

- Keep roof clear of flammable debris.
- Do not stack firewood next to structure.
- Keep flammable vegetation and materials 10 feet from propane tanks.
- Have an outdoor water supply available, with hoses and nozzles capable of reaching all parts of the structure.
- Provide driveway clearance of 12 ft W x 12ft H.
- Be sure driveway address is marked with reflective signs clearly visible from two directions.

For more information, contact OCFD6 personnel at 996-2227.

Fire District Buys Land

On June 12, 2009, Okanogan County Fire District 6 purchased a 5 acre parcel off Horizon Flats Road as the future site of the new Winthrop area station. The purchase was the culmination of a process that began over a year ago.

The 5 acres were purchased from Don White who graciously agreed to sell the property which is located at the western end of his 23 acre parcel. White's property is part of an island of Okanogan County land that is surrounded by the town of Winthrop.

District 6 had spent more than a year looking at all available proper-

ties in the Winthrop area. All other properties were deemed unsuitable based on a number of criteria including price, location, and access.

The current site has sufficient area to meet the current and projected needs of the Fire District for the next 50 years. Ingress and egress to the site is safe for both privately owned and emergency response vehicles. The access road (Horizon Flats Rd.) is wide, uncongested, and well maintained year round. A central location was important in selecting a site so as to allow quick response times to all of Winthrop's commercial areas as well as residences located within 5

miles of the Winthrop station.

Upon completion of the purchase, OCFD6 immediately made application with the Town of Winthrop to have the parcel annexed into the town limits. Annexation was one of the requirements of the town so that they would provide the proposed fire station with town water and sewer utilities.

At press time, OCFD6 had applied for a grant through FEMA to construct a new fire station. It can take up to a year or more to receive a response.

Cooking Safety Tips

The following are recommendations from the Home Safety Council for cooking safely.

- Always stay in the kitchen while cooking.
- Keep flammable items at least 3 feet from your range top.
- Roll up sleeves and wear oven mitts. Loose clothes can catch

fire. If clothes do catch fire, **stop, drop, and roll.**

- Turn pot handle in to prevent small children from pulling them down.

"While cooking is a fun activity for children and parents, it's also a leading cause of house fires."

-Home Safety Council President

Meri-K Appy

- Keep children and pets away from the range when anyone is cooking.

- To prevent scalds, turn your hot water heater down to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

Kidde Recalls Dual Sensor Smoke Alarms; Can Fail to Warn of a Fire Release # 09-266

Name of Product: Kidde Model P12000 Dual Sensor Smoke Alarms

Number of Units: About 94,000

Manufacturer: Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc., of Mebane, N.C.

Description: This recall involves

Kidde dual sensor smoke alarms model P12000. The alarms can be identified by two buttons, "HUSH" and "PUSH AND HOLD TO TEST WEEKLY," which are located on the front/center of the alarm. The model # and date code are on the back of the smoke alarm. Only date codes 2008 Aug. 01 though 2009 May 04

are included in this recall.

Contact Kidde to receive a free replacement smoke alarm.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Kidde toll-free at (877) 524-2086 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET M-F or on the Web at www.kidde.com

Volunteer Spotlight Meet Jeremiah Fosness

Jeremiah currently volunteers for the Mazama station but started out at the Carlton station a little over a year and a half ago. He is the most recent OCFD6 volunteer to become Washington State Firefighter 1 certified.

Jeremiah moved to the Valley 3 years ago after graduating from the University of Montana Western in Dillon, MT. While there he earned a B.A. in English Literature and developed



Firefighter I Jeremiah Fosness

a passion for music and working on cars. Since moving to the Methow he has worked at Quality Lube in Twisp.

When asked what he enjoys most about living in the Methow Valley, Jeremiah replied “it’s a close knit community where everybody knows each other.”

When asked what motivated him to become a volunteer firefighter, Jeremiah said

that it allows him to “give back to my community and it makes me feel like I’m really a part of it.”

Jeremiah says that his most rewarding experience as a volunteer was when he received his black fire helmet for becoming Firefighter 1 certified.

If you happen to run into Jeremiah out and about or at Quality Lube, take the time to thank him for his year and a half of dedicated service to our community.

Carlton Station Gains 5 New Recruits

Jim Woods, Cary Orr, Scott Anderson, Bill Duguay, and Pat Maloy are the 5 new faces around the Carlton fire station. They are all currently attending weekly OCFD6 training and have even completed additional training in order to be able to drive fire response apparatus.

All 5 will begin the OCFD6 re-

cruit school in September. Upon completion, they will have been trained to the National Fire Protection Association’s Firefighter 1 level. It will then be up to each individual to decide if they want to go the next step and complete the necessary testing to

become state certified.

The addition of these 5 new recruits ensures that the Carlton fire station will remain open.

This will bring the staffing level of the Carlton station to a level where they can safely respond, so the commissioners will not have to consider shutting down the station.

Upcoming Recruit Academy

OCFD6 will hold their second recruit academy beginning in September and running to mid December. Details are still being worked out but should be finalized by mid August.

During this academy volunteer firefighters will learn information

and skills needed to pass the State’s Firefighter 1 test. It is up to the individual to decide if they want to take the test to become certified.

The academy will be held in addition to normal weekly training. It will consist of one additional night per week, yet to be deter-

mined, and involve several Saturday sessions.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter is urged to contact Ottis Buzzard, Training Officer for OCFD6, by phone at 996-2227 or by email at

obuzzard@okanogancountyfd6.com

**A PUBLIC SERVICE NEWSLETTER FROM
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Is Your Child's Safety Seat Installed Properly?

Should I use LATCH or the seat belt to install my child's car seat? Does my vehicle have LATCH? What is LATCH? What is a tether and where do I attach it? Am I even doing this right?

These are common questions asked by parents, grandparents, and other child care providers. Finding the answers to these questions can be frustrating, however, there is a local resource to turn to for help.

Aero Methow Rescue Service's Theresa Remsberg and Fire District 6's Brian McAuliffe have



A properly restrained infant in her car seat.

partnered to become the Methow Valley Child Passenger Safety Team (MVCPST). Theresa and Brian have each completed an initial 40 hours of certification training and continue to update their skills through various means to maintain national certification as Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

Both Theresa and Brian are available to answer questions, check your installation, or instruct you on the proper installation of your child's seat. This is a free service that AMRS and OCFD6 happily provide to the Methow Valley.

MVCPST does have car seats available for those in need. A donation of \$20 for convertible (will transi-

tion from rear facing to forward facing) and combination (will transition from a forward facing to a belt positioning booster) seats and \$10 for booster seats is requested. The donations offset the costs of purchasing more seats.

According to Brian McAuliffe, no one is turned away without a seat. We provide you with an envelope and simply ask that you to send what you can, when you can.

For information, inspection, and instruction, contact Theresa at Aero Methow Rescue Service, 997-4013 or Brian at Okanogan County Fire District 6, 996-2227.