



DISTRICT 6 DISPATCH

“Serving the upper Methow Valley from Gold Creek to Lost River” Fall 2014

Message from the Chief

It has been almost a month since lighting strikes started what became the Carlton Complex Fire, the largest wildland fire in state history. This newsletter is to update you about how we've been fighting this fire, and to provide information on how to help people who have been impacted.

District 6 responded to reports of smoke on July 14, and began removing fuel sources (such as brush, leaves and trees) from structures that were at risk. The Department of Natural Resources sent a team early Tuesday, July 15 and District 6 requested state mobilization assistance that afternoon. This step was crucial to helping us access equipment and firefighters from other agencies in the state.

More than 3,000 firefighters have come to the Methow to beat back a 190-mile perimeter of fire line. There have been property losses in District 6, but the neighboring towns of Pateros and

Brewster have suffered the most.

Lives and property have been saved, as well. When fire threatened the Town of Twisp, we requested three strike teams of five fire engines each, and set them up at strategic locations. We had a fire protection plan in place, and were ready to use it if needed.

After the fire grew, our role was to provide point protection for structures wherever it was needed most. That means we get to a property that is in the path of the fire, and move the flames away from buildings as it burns through an area. Then, we jump into our vehicles and head to the next property and do that over and over again.

Our volunteer firefighters continue to fight this mega fire and now the Upper Falls and Little Bridge Creek fires with everything they've got. Their

hard work and dedication to saving lives and property of their neighbors often comes at the expense of sleep, food and their families. People and agencies have told me that our volunteers are some of the best that they have seen. This is partly because of training, but also because of strength of character. I couldn't be more proud of them and thankful to their families for allowing them to serve.

Declared state of emergencies for our area have helped us access needed resources to fight this monster. While it seems overwhelming at the moment, we will rebuild and be

stronger for it. In the meantime, thank you for the support.

Sincerely,
Don Waller,
Fire Chief



Where do I find help? How can I help others in need?

A multi-agency resource center is located in Pateros to connect people with housing, mental health providers, federal assistance and the Red Cross. Hours are Mon. through Sat. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (509) 416-6280.

Many families in our area need financial help to rebuild their lives.

Here are some organizations accepting tax-deductible donations for victims of the fire:

The Okanogan County Community Action Council— Donate at www.occac.com or send a check to PO Box 1067, Okanogan 98840. (509) 422-4041.

The Community Foundation of

North Central Washington— www.cfncw.org/firerelieffund or send checks to 9 South Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee 98801. (509) 663-7716.

The Cove — Donate on line at www.thecovecares.org or send checks to PO Box 895, Twisp 98856. Thank you!



Okanogan County Fire District 6
P.O. Box 895, Winthrop, WA 98862
(509) 996-2227 Fax: (509) 996-8039
www.okanogancountyfd6.com

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Burned debris clean up tips

Okanogan County Public Health – www.okanogancounty.org/ochd has information on health and safety issues and clean up of debris from the fire. Here are tips from their web site to help property owners and contractors properly dispose of debris from the fire.

Up to 250 cubic yards of inert waste may be buried at a site without going through the process of permitting the property as

an inert waste landfill. Inert waste is cured concrete used for structural and construction; asphaltic materials used for structural and construction, except for roofing materials; brick and masonry used for structural and construction; ceramic materials produced from fire clay or porcelain; most glass, except that with significant concentrations of lead, mercury or other

toxic substance; stainless steel and aluminum.

The health district recommends disposing of steel and aluminum through a metal scrapper or recycler. They should be cleaned of ash before recycling. Such materials can be disposed of at the Okanogan County Central Landfill, or transfer stations in Twisp and on Bridgeport Bar.

Materials such as insulation, roofing materials,

plaster, wood and drywall are not considered inert waste. Plaster and drywall react with water to form an alkaline leachate. Collected ash may not be buried on site, because of similar leachate formation.

When cleaning up large amounts of ash, it should be safely collected, bagged or otherwise secured and disposed of at the landfill.