

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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Another successful Round-up

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On September 28th the Methow Valley Child Passenger Safety Team (OCFD #6's Brian McAuliffe and Aero Methow's Theresa Remsberg) held their 2nd annual Car Seat Round-up. Similar to last year's event, this year's round-up coincided with similar events in Omak and Brewster.

“The goal of these recycle events is to get expired, damaged, or unwanted car seats out of circulation and the Methow Valley was by far the recycling hot spot,” reported Brian McAuliffe. Of the 42 seats collected at all three sites, 32 were collected in Twisp.

All 42 seats ended up in Twisp by the end of the

day in order to be disassembled. Those seats that fell within vendor specifications (24) were taken to Methow Recycles. The usable fabric, harness webbing, and buckles will be reincarnated into “Toddler Totes”, similar to diaper bags, by an anonymous local volunteer.

During the event, certified Child Passenger Safety technicians McAuliffe and Remsberg inspected 6 car seats and distributed 4.

“It's a good idea to have your child's car seat inspected,” adds McAuliffe, “studies show that as many as 75% of



Theresa Remsberg and Brian McAuliffe disassembling car seats

children are riding around in seats that are either inappropriate or are installed incorrectly.”

To schedule a car seat inspection, contact Brian McAuliffe at 996-2227 or Theresa Remsberg at 997-4013. You may also call 1-800-BUCKLUP to get info on State laws and answers to installation questions.

Fine Doubled

As of January 1, the fine for violating RCW 46.61.212 has doubled to \$248.

When approaching a **stationary** emergency vehicle making use of it's audio and/or visible warning signals, Washington

drivers are now expected to recognize the area 200 ft before and after said emergency vehicle as an Emergency Zone. Drivers are required to slow down, move left if safe (while yielding the right-of-way to all traffic moving in the opposite direction), and

proceed with caution. To read the new language of RCW 46.61.212 in its entirety, log on to:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/>

Search for “46.61.212” in the top right corner.

OCFD #6 Appoints Two New Lieutenants

Recently OCFD #6 appointed two of their hard working and dedicated volunteers to the rank of lieutenant.

Mark Crum is the Winthrop station's new lieutenant. In the 4 years that Mark has volunteered with OCFD #6, he has proven himself to be a quick learner and on more than one occasion has demonstrated his ability to be a leader on the fire ground. Mark lives in the Winthrop area and works for Okanogan County Electric Co-operative as an IT Specialist /apprentice Meterman.

Pat Maloy is the Carlton sta-



Lt. Mark Crum



Lt. Pat Maloy

tion's new lieutenant. Although Pat has only been a volunteer in Carlton for about a year and a half, he previously volunteered with the City of Burlington, WA in the

1980's. Pat says that even though the technology and the science have evolved most of the basics still apply. He lives outside of Twisp and works for Cascade Concrete.

Home Heating Tips

OCFD #6 would like to remind everyone in the Methow Valley to be safe this home heating season.

- Have your wood stove and chimney inspected by a professional annually
- Clean your chimney as often as your burning practices dictate
- Burn only well seasoned wood in stoves and fireplaces
- Remember that burning trash in your wood stoves is illegal and dangerous as it promotes creosote growth
- Burn your fires hot at least twice a day for 20-30 minutes to help minimize creosote build up
- Dampering down your fire causes it to burn cooler, thereby depositing more creosote in your chimney
- Keep a 36" safety zone around your wood stove or fireplace for combustible materials, pets, and children
- Maintain a minimum of 30" of clearance between baseboard, wall-mounted, and portable space heaters and combustible materials
- Small children and pets should be supervised when portable space heaters are in use
- Portable space heaters are intended to be a temporary heat source and should be turned off before leaving the room or going to bed
- Make sure to have at least one working smoke detector on each level of your home and in or near each sleeping area
- Clean and test your smoke detectors once a month and remember to change the batteries twice a year. Even if your detectors are hardwired into your home's electrical system, they have a backup battery
- Most manufacturers recommend replacing your smoke detectors every 10 years
- If you use heat tapes or other devices to keep your pipes from freezing, be sure to inspect them frequently and follow the manufacturer's recommendations for proper care and maintenance of each particular device
- Never use your cooking range as a heating source
- Make sure that the weather stripping is in good repair. Replace any that is damaged or poorly fitting
- Talk to you electrical utility about any rebate or conservation loan programs that they offer

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Courtney Creighton. Courtney has volunteered for OCFD #6 out of our Mazama station since the fall of 2003. He is an engineer (this means he drives and operates the big trucks) and the station's lieutenant.



Lt. Courtney Creighton

Courtney moved to the Methow in the fall of 2002 not only to escape the sweltering heat and aggravating traffic of Southern California, but also to marry Kaliopé Jones, his friend turned fiancé.

Courtney and Kaliopé have since expanded their family to include 4 young children, two boys and two girls.

Courtney works from home as a freelance technology solution provider. He says that this fancy title "mostly means that I'm on the internet all day."

When asked why he wanted to become a volunteer firefighter he replied that "it was a way for me to

meet people in the community and to do something fairly exciting that would get me away from my computer."

When Courtney asked his two oldest kids what they think about their dad being a volunteer firefighter, their comments were "it's cool" and "it's a good thing to do."

If you happen to run into Courtney during one of the rare occasions when he's not attached to his computer or playing with his kids, take the time to thank him for his 7 years of service to our community.

What's Your Location?

If you had to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone would you know what your location was?

Many people operate under a false sense of security in believing that modern technology will allow the 9-1-1 dispatch center to automatically know their location when they are calling from a cell phone. Factors that can contribute to not

knowing your location include: being in an unfamiliar place, being in a stressful situation, and the presence of distractions.

In order to facilitate a smoother transfer of information between you, the 9-1-1 dispatch center, and the responders, it's important that you know the ABC's. Always be aware of your surroundings (provide

landmarks such as cross streets and mileposts). **Be** prepared (memorize your cell phone number and give it to the dispatcher if asked). Stay **Connected** (don't hang up until told to do so and if you get disconnected call back).

Knowing your location will help minimize any delays in getting you the help that you need.

It's Here!

OCFD #6 recently took delivery of \$54,000.00 worth of equipment it received as an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). This grant is funded through FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association).

The equipment received in-

cluded; a new air compressor/fill station for our self contained breathing apparatus air packs, and the necessary tools to perform our own maintenance.

"The items purchased with this grant not only allows us to operate more efficiently, but will help us

ensure the safety of our volunteers" says Don Waller, OCFD #6 chief.

This grant was written by Division Chief Ottis Buzzard. Since 2004, Okanogan County Fire District #6 has received over \$400,000 in equipment through FEMA's AFG program.

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

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Drowsy Driving, Don't

According to the AAA Foundation, drowsy driving is involved in about one in eight deadly crashes; one in ten crashes resulting in occupant hospitalization, and one in twenty crashes in which a vehicle was towed.

In 2009 the Triple A Foundation conducted its *Sleep in America* poll. They found that 28% of Americans admitted to having fallen asleep behind the wheel within the past year, and 54% said that they had driven while drowsy. One quarter of the surveyed adults confessed that during the previous month, they had driven despite being so tired that they had difficulty keeping their eyes open.

Drowsy driving is impaired driving. It results in slower reaction

times, vision impairment, lapses in judgment, and delays in processing information.

If you're feeling sleepy, stop driving if you are experiencing the following warning signs:

- Difficulty focusing, frequent blinking or heavy eyelids
- Difficulty keeping daydreams at bay
- Trouble keeping your head up
- Drifting from your lane, swerving, tailgating, or hitting rumble strips repeatedly
- Inability to clearly remember the last few miles driven
- Missing exits or traffic signs

- Yawning repeatedly
- Feeling restless, irritable, or aggressive

To help prevent drowsy driving, you can:

- Use the buddy system— don't drive alone on long trips
- Take a break every 100 miles or 2 hours
- Take a nap— 15 to 20 minutes, in a safe place. Lock vehicle doors.
- Avoid driving at any time you would normally be asleep
- Consume caffeine

Above all, be a safe and responsible driver.