



DISTRICT 6 DISPATCH

“Serving the upper Methow Valley from Gold Creek to Lost River” Summer 2012

Message from the Chief



Dear Neighbor,

I want to start this newsletter by thanking the community for participating in our recent survey. Your input helps us prioritize spending and develop short- and long-term goals for our fire district. We are thankful for your support and will work every day to earn your trust.

Our biggest priority continues to be addressing space problems at our Winthrop station, which we have outgrown. Space is so tight inside the building that fire fighters struggle to get into their gear and out the door. Also, we have to slowly navigate the hill in winter because of ice. These issues impact our ability to provide a rapid response to emergencies.

Another issue is that there is not enough room to park all our fire engines, water tenders and other emergency equipment in the building.

We leave some outside, which leaves them vulnerable to weather and vandalism. This equipment represents a significant investment for our taxpayers, and we need to make sure it is sheltered and protected so it will be ready when we need it.

A new station will help us provide a safe and rapid response for your family. The fire district purchased land in 2009 in anticipation of owning and building a new station. This facility will accommodate our fire fighters and emergency equipment, as well as provide important training space for our crews. To fund the construction, we are considering a levy sometime in late 2013. We will keep you informed through our newsletter and the news media as plans unfold. I hope that you will participate in the discussion and ask questions.

On another note, I am pleased to announce that we just passed our eighth internal audit by

the state. It is important that we be accountable and transparent to our taxpayers. Passing these independent audits is proof-positive that we are good stewards of your tax dollars.

Finally, you'll notice that we've made some changes to the newsletter by reducing it to two pages. A smaller newsletter saves us money on printing and postage. We recognize the importance of “tightening the belt” when needed to maintain a balanced budget.

Thank you again for supporting your local fire district. Please feel free to contact me anytime at (509) 997-2981 or dwall@okanogancountyfd6.com with questions or comments about how we can serve you and your family better.

Sincerely,

Chief Don Waller

Improving Communication

Okanogan County Fire District 6 is making some changes to improve communication with the public we serve.

The first change you may have already noticed is our quarterly newsletter's new look. A shorter newsletter is read more, and will save money on printing and postage.

We just joined facebook, and encourage you to “Like” our page at www.facebook.com/OkanoganCountyFireDist6. Facebook will help us share information about current events and issues involving your fire district. We also are making regular changes and updates to our website

www.okanogancountyfd6.com.

Both our facebook page and web site are great places to go for information about between newsletters.

Thank you!





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Volunteer Spotlight: Tyler Wilson



Firefighter Recruit Tyler Wilson, Liberty Bell Jr./Sr. High School Class of 2012

Tyler Wilson has volunteered with the fire district at its Winthrop station since September of 2011. During his senior year at Liberty Bell, Tyler lettered in football and basketball, attended weekly fire district trainings, completed firefighter recruit school, responded to calls as a volunteer fire fighter, and worked — all while maintaining a 3.7 GPA.

Tyler graduated high school on June 8th, using

volunteer firefighting as his senior project. He wants to pursue firefighting as a career and plans to start Walla Walla Community College's Fire Science program in the fall.

In recognition of his achievements, the Winthrop Firefighter's Association awarded Tyler a \$500 scholarship to continue his education. Scholarship recipients are acknowledged for their willingness to serve

others.

The fire district will be sad to lose Tyler as a volunteer, but wishes him well in his future endeavors. If you run into Tyler sometime this summer, congratulate him on graduating high school and thank him for his service to our community.

34 volunteers, like Tyler, put their lives on the line each day to keep our community safe. Thank you!