



# DISTRICT 6 DISPATCH

“Serving the upper Methow Valley from Gold Creek to Lost River” Winter 2013

## Message from the Chief

Dear Neighbor,

I want to thank you for your positive comments about our newsletters and the news coverage we have received over the past several months. Okanogan County Fire District 6 (District 6) has been working hard to improve how we communicate with our community, and we are glad it is working!

By way of new information, we continue to make progress on a larger Winthrop station to better serve our taxpayers. We purchased the land in 2010, and drew up plans for a modular building that will meet the needs of the fire district for the next 50 years. Recently, we hired a civil engineering firm to do a topographical survey to determine where sewer, water and electric utilities should go.

The problems associated with the current Winthrop station are even

more apparent in winter. Space is so tight inside the station that fire-fighters struggle to get into their gear safely, mere inches away from moving trucks. Also, the hilly roads surrounding the station are icy in winter, which can delay our emergency response as opposed to flatter roads at the new site. A larger facility will improve firefighter safety, shelter emergency equipment, and provide training space for our volunteers.

We have reduced the amount of money that we will need to borrow for this project by purchasing the property and doing site work in advance as well as using a modular building. The next step will be to determine the final costs for the modular unit, and then ask district taxpayers to approve a levy lid lift sometime this fall.

Our fire district has grown in population to the point where we

need a larger facility. I'm not wild about all this change, but it has to happen so we can provide the emergency services you need. In addition, interest rates and construction costs are at an all-time low so now is the best time for District 6 to tackle this project.

Once we know the costs, we will be holding public meetings to hear your thoughts about the station, as well as answer any questions you might have before the commissioners vote to put a levy lid lift on the ballot. Your input is important to us, and we look forward to hearing from you.



Sincerely,

Don Waller,  
Fire Chief

## Help Fight Blood Cancer

Volunteer firefighters Mark Crum, Jeremiah Fosness, and Bill McAdow are once again signed up for the Scott Firefighter Stair Climb.

These local volunteers will join a field of more than 1,550 participants from 281 departments as they race up 69 flights of stairs in Seattle's Columbia Tower (1,311 steps and 788 feet of

vertical elevation) wearing full bunker gear and self contained breathing apparatus.

All proceeds benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) and their fight against blood cancers. Last year's event raised a record \$1.2 million that was used for research and patient services.

You can help our team raise money for this cause by going to <http://www.firefighterstairclimb.org/> click on DONATE, type in the name of the competitor you'd like to support (Mark Crum, Jeremiah Fosness, Bill McAdow, or someone else you know who is participating), then click on DONATE NOW.



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## Volunteers Serving Our Valley



*OCFD6 Personnel spending a Saturday away from their friends and families to log some live structure fire training time. Here firefighters are practicing their technique for safely and efficiently putting out a small room and contents fire.*

The 32 volunteers of the Carlton, Twisp, Winthrop, and Mazama stations of District 6 responded to 271 emergency calls in 2012.

These calls ranged from working structure fires to vehicle accidents to one animal extrication (a horse stuck in the side hatch of a stock trailer).

In total, the volunteers logged 2,229 response hours and 2,047 training hours to keep your family and property safe. On average, each firefighter responded to 35 calls, spent 70 hours

on those calls, and completed an additional 64 hours of training. These figures don't include the additional time that many firefighters put in maintaining their station, equipment, and conducting extra training on their own.

District 6 personnel also support other organizations both local and abroad. Like the foursome who played in the Liberty Bell Booster Club Mini Golf Tournament or the three competitors in the stair climb to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Each of our local volunteer firefighters is unique, but all 32 are united in their commitment to protect and serve those who live in the Methow Valley.

If you have questions about becoming a volunteer firefighter, please contact Division Chief Brian McAuliffe at 996-2227 ext. 3 or [bmcauliffe@okanogancountyfd6.com](mailto:bmcauliffe@okanogancountyfd6.com)

You also can learn more through our website at:

[www.okanogancountyfd6.com](http://www.okanogancountyfd6.com)