



DISTRICT 6 DISPATCH

“Serving the upper Methow Valley from Gold Creek to Lost River” Winter 2015

Message From the Chief

A lot can and will be said about the year 2014. Looking back, here are a few of OCFD6's more notable events.

The Washington State Survey and Rating Bureau reviewed their protection classifications for OCFD6 and the towns of Winthrop and Twisp. The District improved from an 8 to a 7 (if the structure is within a 5 mile driving distance from one of our 4 fire stations). Twisp improved from a 7 to a 6 and Winthrop maintained its rating of 6. The scale ranges from 1 to 10 with a lower number being better. Insurance companies use these ratings to help determine how much a consumer will pay for their policy.

Last February on a Friday night, Saturday night, and a Sunday afternoon our volunteers put in a combined total of 435 personnel hours when there were back to back to back structure fires. With our limited number of volunteers, this meant the same firefighters worked all 3 fires. Not only was it a long weekend, but an even longer work week when they went back to their day jobs on Monday morning.

In July found we tackled the biggest

wildfire in Washington State history. Our volunteers spent 1,840 personnel hours battling the Carlton Complex fire, the Rising Eagle fire, and numerous other incidents between July 14th and August 2nd. Our paid staff played a big role by providing leadership and directing resources, while staying in communication with the incident management teams. At one point during the Carlton Complex Fire, the Town of Twisp received a level 2 evacuation notice. This threat was anticipated early enough that we were able to order outside resources and have a fire protection plan in place when they arrived.

Last year we implemented a training program for new volunteers called the Firefighter Trainee (FFT) Program. After a short probationary period and a 5 day recruit training course, new volunteers transition into the FFT course. The FFT course incorporates national and OCFD6 standards, as well as the knowledge and skills needed for a firefighter to be effective on scene.

With everything that happened in 2014, I would like to thank the volunteer firefighters and paid staff for their time and efforts during the year.

Sincerely, Chief Don Waller



The Twisp Station's brush truck protecting structures near Davis Lake during the Carlton Complex Fire.

Helping Fight Cancer

OCFD6 Winthrop station volunteers Lt. Mark Crum, Jeremiah Fosness, Bill McAdow, and Zack Gurney will participate in the 2015 Scott Firefighter Stair Climb at Seattle's Columbia Center.

On March 8th, our local firefighters will join a field of more than 1500 participants as they race up 69 flights of stairs

(1,311 steps) in full bunker gear and self contained breathing apparatus.

All proceeds benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) and their fight against blood cancers. Last year the OCFD6 team collected \$2,939 (each participant must raise a minimum of \$300) to help raise a com-

binated total of over \$1.7 million from this one event. The money is used for research and patient services. You can help raise money for this cause by going to www.firefighterstairclimb.org click on DONATE, type the name of one of our competitors, then click DONATE NOW.



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Serving our Community



*L to R FF Dave Crosby,
Capt Courtney Creighton,
FF Josh Jankowski, and Lt
Charles Hammer waiting
their chance to rotate into
a training burn last
November*

OCFD6 is pleased to recognize two of our Mazama station volunteers for completing the necessary training and earning the title Firefighter.

Dave Crosby and Josh Jankowski started the process just under two years ago. Since then they have completed approximately 335 hours of classroom, online, and hands-on training in addition to weekly Thursday night drills.

Their training included topics such as: OCFD6 policies, hose handling, building construction, forcible entry, ground ladders, victim search/removal, and tactical ventilation.

In all, 6 volunteers began this process with Dave and Josh. Work constraints and life events (one was injured at home several days before the final test out) have so far kept the other four from

completing their task books.

For information on volunteering with OCFD6 contact Division Chief Brian McAuliffe at 996-2227 ext. 3 or [bmcauliffe@okanogancou
ntyfd6.com](mailto:bmcauliffe@okanogancountyfd6.com)

You can also find information about volunteering or about OCFD6: [www.okanogancountyfd6.
com](http://www.okanogancountyfd6.com)