



DISTRICT 6 DISPATCH

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

Message from the Chief

It has been a difficult summer for the Methow Valley, but we’re starting to recover. From July 14 through August 26, our volunteer firefighters spent 1,840 hours responding to the Carlton Complex and Rising Eagle Fires and 43 other emergency calls during the same time period. To put that number into perspective, our volunteers logged a total of 1,716 hours responding to calls in 2013.

More than 90 percent of our firefighters are volunteers, and we need them to respond to emergency calls. Relying on volunteers saves fire district taxpayers \$2.3 million per year in personnel costs. We can’t save lives and property without them and yet we are unable to offer them a safe operating environment in one of our own stations.

The existing Winthrop station is inadequate to meet the emergency needs of our community

and unsafe for our volunteer firefighters. State officials found six areas where clearance between engines and emergency personnel were too close. These conditions could result in volunteers being injured or killed.

Unsafe conditions at the Winthrop station also impact our ability to attract and keep new volunteers throughout the fire district. We should have 25 volunteers at the Winthrop Station because they respond to all emergency calls that come into Twisp and Mazama and 60% of Carlton’s calls. But, participation has fallen to just 10 in 2014 in part due to the conditions at the Winthrop station.

District 6 has been talking with our community about building a new fire station in Winthrop for several years. We already own the land on Lower Horizon Flats Road and have paid for architecture and engineering work associated with the new

facility. This summer, our Board of Fire Commissioners passed a resolution asking voters to approve a temporary lid lift on the November General Election ballot to fund construction costs associated with the project.

You can find more information about the lid lift in this newsletter and on our web site at www.okanogancountyfd6.com. I am also available to respond to questions or provide a tour of the existing station so you can see the challenges we are facing. Please feel free to contact me at dwall@okanogancountyfd6.com or (509) 997-2981 anytime.



Thank you,
DON
WALLER
Fire Chief

Details about the lid lift

The current fire levy for District 6 is 61.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. District 6 is asking voters to approve a 20-year levy lid lift of 17.5 cents/\$1,000. If approved by voters, the new fire levy would be 79 cents/\$1,000 and start being collected in 2015. (The maximum amount a fire district can ask voters to approve is \$1.50/\$1,000.) Here is a chart of the additional amount you would pay by month and per year:

Assessed Property Value	Monthly Amount (17.5 cents/\$1,000)	Annual Cost (17.5 cents/\$1,000)
\$100,000	\$1.46	\$17.50
\$200,000	\$2.92	\$35
\$300,000	\$4.38	\$52.50
\$400,000	\$5.83	\$70
\$500,000	\$7.29	\$87.50
\$600,000	\$8.75	\$105

Amounts rounded to the closest decimal point.



Okanogan County Fire District 6

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District 6 holds Open House to thank emergency responders

On October 4, District 6 held an open house at the Winthrop Fire Station to thank emergency responders and their agencies for their help during the recent Carlton Complex and Rising Eagle Fires. More than 60 people came to thank the responding agencies and learn more about the organizations that fight wildland fires in the Methow Valley. The Carlton Complex and Rising Eagle Fires involved more than a dozen local, state and federal agencies, 3,000 firefighters (including 31 volunteer firefighters from District 6) and 189 miles of fire line that burned over 256,000 acres. District 6 says THANK YOU to the agencies that responded and the community members who took part in this important event.

