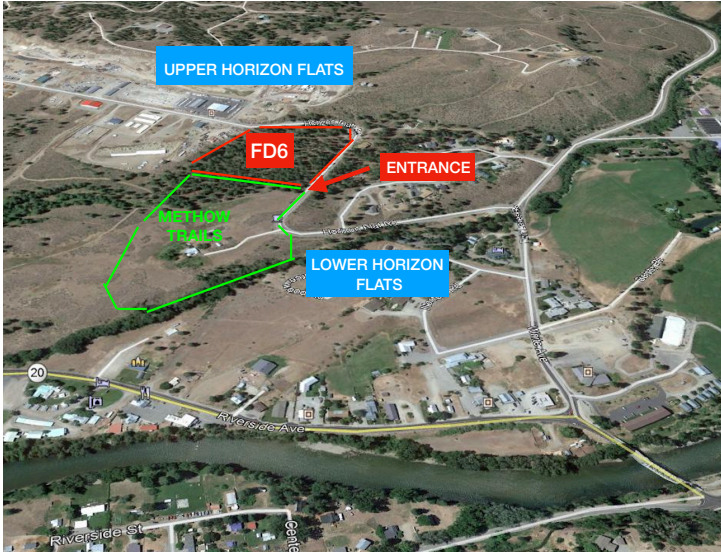




# District 6 DISPATCH

Serving the upper Methow Valley from Gold Creek to Lost River – WINTER-FEB 2020

## Home of the New District Fire Station and Training



Fire District 6 (FD6) is looking forward to its future facility, next to Methow Trails on lower Horizon Flats Road. We've been working with our neighbors and the Town of Winthrop to benefit all parties, including, above all, the citizens we serve. All FD6 fire stations from Mazama to Carlton recently hosted open houses that offered information about the proposed new site and facility. If you missed that chance, feel free to contact our Fire Chief, Cody Acord, at 509-997-2981 to arrange a tour of the station nearest you. In addition, you will find a wealth of information on the FD6 website at: [www.okanogancountyfd6.com](http://www.okanogancountyfd6.com). Watch for news about a Special Election to fund the new station.

## Your Vote is Worth \$1.8 Million

Training Programs Available through Grant Funds from the Betti Foundation by Rick Rottman

The Bruno and Evelyne Betti Foundation, located in Lacey, Washington, was created in 2007 to continue the philanthropic mission that Bruno and Evelyne pursued during their lifetimes. The Foundation's purpose is to support Vocational Training in the Pacific Northwest. It seeks to provide educational opportunities not otherwise available in smaller communities to young adults, resulting in a technical or professional skill that leads to a lifetime career, allowing them to become more productive members of society. The Foundation also aims to encourage those underprivileged or handicapped individuals in achieving their life goals.

The Betti Foundation grant was provisionally awarded to Okanogan County Fire District 6 (OCFD6) to fund programs and facilities to train structural and wildland firefighters, utilizing the most up to date methods, equipment and facilities. The grant requires that voters pass funding for a new District Station and Training Facility. We have one chance to secure this grant in the upcoming special election.

The grant specifies certifications in several traditional firefighting skill-sets, such as structural, wildland, hazmat, and incident command. It also addresses new and emerging firefighter skill-sets, most particularly drone (UAV) training and use.



- Drones have proven to be an incredible addition to the firefighter’s tools! Drones improve decision making and the efficiency of fire scene operations. They also make firefighting safer, and both enhance and streamline victim search and rescue.

- Drones are quick to set up and deploy at the fire scene. They provide incident commanders with an overview of the fire scene. With thermal imaging cameras, it is possible to see through smoke, locate hot spots that are otherwise undetectable, and see the location of firefighting teams on the ground. This is valuable information for both wildland and structural fire situations.



- Drones can locate victims, whether lost or after accidents, in spite of fog, smoke, or darkness, using thermal imaging. They are often able to survey an area more quickly than a search team. They have been used to deliver radios or supplies to victims they locate or firefighters in remote locations. Drones are even being sent into smoke-filled structures in search of victims.

This is just a brief list of the capabilities and uses of drones in the fire service. New and more innovative uses continue to be explored. OCFD6 will be fortunate to have the means to develop a drone program in the Methow Valley, enhancing the safety of both the firefighters and residents. This program will be made available with voter approval for the new District Station and Training Facility.

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