



RISTWATCH

RCVFD Quarterly Newsletter P. O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512 Issue No. 118 April 2026

Letter from the President

The Importance of Donating to Your Volunteer Fire Department.

I have mentioned many times the importance of donating to our all-volunteer department. I have mentioned that our department never sends a bill for their response. I have mentioned that I have seen first-hand the amount of dedicated training that our responders must do to learn new skills and stay proficient. I have mentioned the cost and the amount of equipment, both trucks and all the apparatus needed to equip a truck, needed to make all of this happen.

I can now say that due to a recent medical emergency at my house, I have seen quality of the emergency response firsthand. I can state that the response was fast. I can report that the response was professional. I can assure you that seeing friendly faces responding and helping in a moment of dire need was very welcome. I told Chief Neuroth that I felt like I received Cadillac level response.

To the responders, **I cannot thank you enough** for your response, your help, your friendly faces.

To my fellow RCVFD neighbors, please donate to this vital mission. While I hope that you will never need the kind of response that I received, I can tell you that when your friends and neighbors show up to help you, that you will be glad that you supported this department. Also, see your area rep and make sure that you have the coverage and peace of mind that comes with our AirMedCare coverage so that if you or a loved one requires evacuation by helicopter, you won't be facing a five-figure bill at exactly the wrong time.

Neil Faber
President - 2026

Chief's Report

Greetings from Chief Neuroth

Hi All,

By the time this edition of Rist Watch comes out, we will have had dry conditions for most of the winter, and it continues to be dry this spring, with the forecast for the summer also being dry.

Rist Canyon VFD has been working hard to get all of our apparatus in top working condition.

Our volunteers have been attending our training sessions faithfully. We've added a Saturday training once a month to increase our readiness.

Residents please look at my past article on how to report a wildfire and/or smoke observation. Also please take advantage of our wildfire mitigation program on our organization's website.

Our Wildfire Awareness day is May 2nd. We have an invitation in this issue of the Ristwatch with details. Please have a look (page 5).

As always, our medical team is ready and had five new Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) join.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Neuroth, Chief

Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department

P.O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512

chief@rcvfd.org

Letter from the Vice President

**RCVFD FESTIVAL NEEDS KEY VOLUNTEERS
TO CONTINUE RAISING \$30,000 PROFIT ANNUALLY FOR RCVFD!!!
IT'S A FUN WAY TO SUPPORT THE RCVFD!**

NEED PARKING CO-CHAIRS (2)

**RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTING GENERAL PARKING AT THE
FESTIVAL and RECRUIT TEAM TO ROTATE DURING THE DAY
Current Chair will train, advise, and provide written guidelines.**

NEED WEB PAGE CHAIR

**COLLECT FROM FESTIVAL LEADERS CONTENT AND
UPDATE AS NEEDED TO DESIGN FESTIVAL WEBPAGE
We have a web guru for handling the webpage mechanics.**

Please contact me with questions — thanks! We look forward to your help!

**H.J. Siegel
Mountain Festival Coordinator
RCVFD Board of Directors Vice President
HJ@computer.org**



The Ristwatch Is Going Digital!

The Ristwatch newsletter is your primary source for community information, safety tips, RCVFD history, and ads from local businesses. It arrives in your mailbox once a quarter, and we hope you get value and enjoyment out of every issue.

Now it's time for an upgrade! We have heard from many of our readers that you would like to receive the newsletter by email. Comments have ranged from wanting to reduce paper waste to preferring to read on a screen. Whatever your reason, we are ready to make it happen!

Choose which of these three statements below applies best to you:

"I would love to get both email and paper Ristwatches!" If you are on our Community Alerts email list, we have already added you to the email Ristwatch list. This means you will receive both the paper and email copy from now on, and you don't need to do anything else! If you are not on our email list, or are not sure, email us at mailinglist@rcvfd.org to get added.

"I don't want the email Ristwatch. I like to have a paper copy in my hands." No problem! We recently sent a Community Info notice to the email list, telling you how to opt out of the email Ristwatch. At the bottom of every email from the RCVFD, you will always find instructions on how to choose which emails you receive. Email mailinglist@rcvfd.org if you're not sure how to do this. Or - just delete the Ristwatch email when it comes each quarter.

"I want to save paper! Please stop sending me the paper Ristwatch." We can do that! Email mailinglist@rcvfd.org and tell us the name and address on your mailing label. If you are not sure if you are on our email list, let us know.

We think that emailed newsletters are a great option for many of our readers. Email has many advantages, including less paper waste, less postage and printing expense for the RCVFD, color photos, and the ability to forward the email to other people. If there are internet links in articles, you can easily click through right on your screen. However, rest assured that you will still receive the paper edition if that is your preference.

A note to our Ristwatch advertisers: If the artwork you sent us was in color, your ad in the email Ristwatch is in color. If your ad is not in color, we'd love to get new artwork from you!

Finally, a reminder that every issue of the Ristwatch is already available in electronic form on the RCVFD website, going back ten years. You can find them all at <https://rcvfd.org/ristwatch>.

Diane McCarthy, RCVFD Treasurer
Melanie Bevers, RCVFD Assistant Treasurer
Ellison Carter, Ristwatch Editor

Mark Your Calendars!

Community Wildfire Preparedness Day

When: Saturday, May 2, 2026; 10:00AM to 2:00 PM

Where: RCVFD Station One, 11835 Rist Canyon Road

What: Join the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department for an open house focused on wildfire preparedness. Living in the Wildland–Urban Interface offers many benefits, but it also requires taking steps to reduce wildfire risk.

Stop by to learn from RCVFD and local wildfire experts about practical actions you can take to improve the chances of your home surviving a wildfire and how to prepare your family in case of evacuation.

The RCVFD CWPP team will also have a draft Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) available for community review and feedback.

RCVFD Monthly Meeting Schedule

Operations —1st Wednesdays (6-7 PM)

Fire Training—2nd Wednesdays (7-9:30 PM)

Board Meeting—3rd Wednesdays (6-8 PM)

Medical Training—4th Wednesdays (7-9 PM)

Ops, Fire, and Medical Trainings are at Firehouse #1 at 11835 Rist Canyon Road. Board meetings are held at Firehouse #1, or on Zoom if necessary. All Rist Canyon area residents are welcome to attend. If you would like to receive the agenda, please email your name, email address, and phone number to the RCVFD Board Secretary at secretary@rcvfd.org. Please note that the agenda will arrive one to two days before the scheduled meeting. To sign up for Community Alerts, visit RCVFD.org.

Help Build a Resilient Rist Canyon



Wildfire Partner Program Now Accepting Assessment Requests

RCVFD now has trained Wildfire Partner Program (WPP) Ambassadors ready to offer voluntary home assessments designed to help you identify and prioritize practical projects that can improve the chances of your home withstanding a wildfire.

These assessments are free, confidential, actionable, and focused on clear, achievable steps you can take at your own pace.

To learn more or to request a Wildfire Home Ignition Zone Assessment for your home, please visit our website at:

rcvfd.org/emergency-preparedness/home-assessments

Working together, we can strengthen our community's readiness and help keep Rist Canyon safer and more resilient in the face of wildfire.

Update: Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

Thank you to the 100 community members who responded to the Rist Canyon Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) survey. Your feedback will play an important role in shaping the final report and helping guide wildfire preparedness efforts across our community. While the survey has now closed, community input is still welcome. If you have additional thoughts, questions, or concerns related to the plan, please reach out to the CWPP team at cwpp@rcvfd.org.

Over the next several weeks, the CWPP team will be finalizing the report and developing recommendations using community input and locally gathered information about wildfire hazards, response capabilities, and preparedness across the Rist Canyon area. Our goal is to have a draft version ready for public review at the Community Wildfire Preparedness Day Open House on Saturday, May 2, at RCVFD Station One. We encourage anyone interested in helping shape the final plan to attend and share feedback.

What is a CWPP and why does it matter?

A CWPP helps communities identify wildfire hazards and prioritize actions to reduce risk and improve preparedness. The plan is developed collaboratively by residents, the fire department, and partner agencies to reflect local conditions and community priorities.

For our community, the CWPP will help:

Provide guidance for homeowners on reducing wildfire risk.

Help emergency responders understand local hazards and priorities.

Identify mitigation projects and strengthen opportunities for wildfire mitigation grants.

To learn more about CWPPs and view plans from nearby communities, visit:

<https://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/community-wildfire-protection-plans>

Questions? Contact the RCVFD CWPP Team at cwpp@rcvfd.org.



Can We Reach You In An Emergency?

Please take a moment to register with LETA911 (www.leta911.org). RCVFD and Larimer County Emergency Services use this system to send emergency updates and evacuation notices. You can choose to receive alerts by phone, email, or text. You

can also note any special circumstances, such as oxygen use or mobility limitations, that may make evacuation more difficult. Thank you for considering registering with LETA911!

Notes from Your Area Representatives

Happy Spring! Living in the canyon, we all look out for one another, and one small thing that can make a big difference is making sure our smoke and carbon monoxide detectors (CO2 Detectors) are working properly. Please take a few minutes to check the detectors in your home and replace the batteries once each year. When you dispose of the batteries it



is Most Important that you place tape over the terminals (as seen in the photo), I use electric tape as it holds all around the terminals. Otherwise, if two different battery terminals should come in contact with each other it could cause a spark and start a fire. I actually learned this while in a wilderness survival class.

Also, if your detectors are around eight years old or older, it's a good idea to replace them, per manufacturer's recommendation, as the sensors can wear out over time. Fire departments recommend having working smoke detectors on every level of your home and near sleeping areas, along with carbon monoxide detectors if you have fuel-burning appliances, a fireplace/stove, pellet stove, or an attached garage. In Colorado carbon monoxide detectors are required prior to listing your house for sale, within 15 feet of a sleeping area. You can also purchase combination smoke and CO2 detectors. These little devices are inexpensive, but they can provide an early warning that may save lives. It's simple peace of mind for you, your family, and your neighbors. Don't forget RCVFD also has a Free Chimfex for you in case of a chimney fire. Just contact your Area Representative. Enjoy the coming spring.

Louise Creager — Stratton Park

I was speaking with a neighbor the other day and learned of the Fruit Truck. It's no surprise I'm just now learning about this, but being late to discover new things is nothing new to me. Better late than never.

The website is myfruittruck.com. There is also a Facebook page with information. I was able to get some strawberries from Florida and they did not disappoint. It's always nice to get orchard fresh produce when the opportunity presents itself. I have heard that a decent line can form so take that as a warning. I am in no way affiliated with this in any way. I just wanted to pass on some information about fresh produce.

Take it Easy!

Tim Stratman — Stove Prairie

Notes from Your Area Representatives

With the fire blowing back up recently on Davis Ranch Road, I would like to remind you when you burn a slash pile be sure it is completely out and there are no stumps underneath to catch on fire.

We lost a member of our community in February. As a friend and neighbor of Neil and Debbie Faber, I would like to thank the Davis Ranch neighbors, RCVFD board and fire fighters for their donations of food for the Faber family. Each and every one was greatly appreciated. I tried to inform Neil when I knew food was coming.

Neil said he could not believe the outpouring from the community. We live in such a wonderful area where neighbors help each other in good or bad times.

Carolyn Stanley — Davis Ranch



Photo credit - Carolyn Stanley

Happy Spring from the Upper Buckhorn!

It's hard to believe winter has already slipped away, leaving little trace behind. The season was a gentle one, and both wildlife and roads seem to have weathered it well. We're beginning to see more animal activity in the area again — always a welcome sign that spring is truly on its way.

It's also almost time for one of our favorite seasonal arrivals: the hummingbirds. A few early scouts have already been spotted in town, so it's time to prepare your feeders.

Before hanging them out, be sure to thoroughly clean and sterilize your feeders to keep our tiny visitors healthy. A simple homemade nectar is all you need — just sugar and water. Mix one part sugar to four parts water (for example, 1 cup sugar to 4 cups water), stirring until fully dissolved. No dyes or additives are necessary.

Here in the Upper Buckhorn, we commonly see Rufous Hummingbird and Broad-tailed Hummingbird. One memorable summer, a Calliope Hummingbird even made an appearance — a special treat for any bird lover.

Keep your eyes (and ears) open — the whir of wings is one of spring's sweetest sounds.

Erica Michel — Upper Buckhorn

Delivering Value That Matters

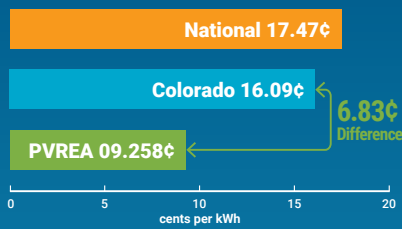
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Value of Membership

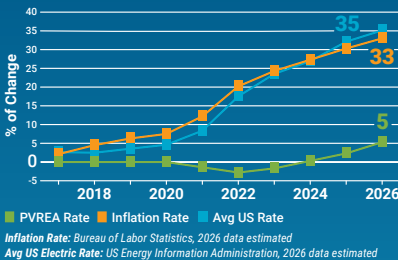
AVERAGE PRICE PER KWH: RESIDENTIAL



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

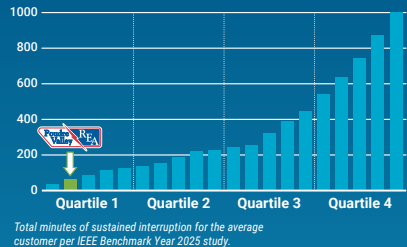
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Notes from Your Area Representatives, *cont'd from pg 9*

This has been an amazing winter. We've had many days with very high winds. Fortunately, I was able to get Wolf Roofing and Construction out to my property to repair the damage done during one of the earlier windy days. They did an excellent job. Just two day ago as I'm writing this we had and high wind couple of days. I was kept awake during the night due to the wind shaking our log home. I'm relieved to say the repairs stayed in place and our home has not been further damaged. We did get a five or six inch snow that came through the area about the 9th of March. It was completely evaporated in just a couple of days. Later in the month, about the 19th, we saw temperatures approaching the 80 degree mark. All of this means that our fire season could be very severe if the trend continues. Please continue to be extra cautious about anything that could cause or aggravate a wild fire. The warm weather is starting to cause some trees to bud already and the wildlife is making regular appearances. Be on the alert while driving. I've already seen two road kill deer next to roads.

Finally, I'm attaching a photo of the fire we had last fall that occurred to the South of Ohana Ranch. We don't want to experience any more structure fires or wildland ones.

Dean Yoder — Lower Buckhorn



Spring is Here!



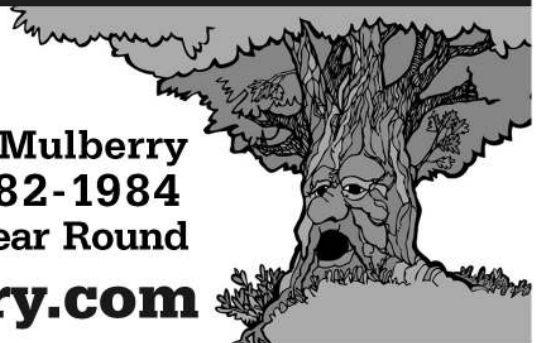
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Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department History

This article is the fourth in a series of installments reflecting on the history of the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department, in honor of its 50th anniversary year.

Happy 50th Anniversary Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department

It is hard to imagine that those 75 individuals who, in 1975 responded to an invitation to investigate forming a volunteer fire department, would recognize the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department (RCVFD) of today. Fifty years later, we thank those individuals for their vision and foresight. They focused on creating an organization able to ensure the community had direct control and influence



RCVFD Fleet

over its abilities to address the safety and emergency needs of our residents that continues today.

Because of the initial commitment, for 50 years the RCVFD's foundation's success has been dependent upon countless volunteer hours, generous financial support, significant donations, and personal sacrifice by emergency responders and their families that support them. Reaffirming a collective community

commitment, the department continues to evolve and grow to provide the fire and emergency services necessary to meet the community's current and future safety needs. All participants have provided a critical element by combining efforts has made for a stronger community and fire department. The active involvement and dedication of some individuals has extended for decades.

RCVFD is a classic Wildland Urban Interface department that faces all the challenges created by homes and other structures located in forested, mountainous areas. As the population density and number of visitors increases, RCVFD continues to see a more diverse variety of responses and a higher level of expectations by those it serves.

RCVFD as an organization is committed to serve the community to the best of its ability while protecting responder safety. Emergency responses include threats to life and property from fire and other emergency situations. Included are medical emergencies, accidents, rescue circumstances, and natural disasters.

When you visit or live in a wildland urban interface area you must understand the limitations imposed upon emergency response inherent in the geographic location. This means the RCVFD and the community must work together to provide appropriate and timely responses.



Work day with Assistant Chief Carol Dollard in the lead

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Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department History

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Although the current by-laws define a 51 square mile fire response area nested within a larger 76 square mile medical response area, the most recent Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) acknowledges that RCVFD's actual operational footprint is significantly larger: the primary response area is now approximately 105 square miles for both fire and medical calls. This expanded footprint goes beyond the by-law boundaries due to practical service realities and is further supplemented by an additional 70 square miles of mutual aid area, making the effective coverage closer to 175 square miles. The 105 square miles therefore does not result from adding the fire and medical areas together; instead, it represents a broader, unified service area that encompasses and exceeds the by-law-defined boundaries.

The actual service area in detail includes:

Rist Canyon Area: This refers to residences (excluding several specific areas as outlined below) accessed directly from Rist Canyon Road (AKA Larimer County Road 52E) from the mouth of the canyon (7000 block) to the top of "Ford Hill" (16000 block). The "Rist Canyon area is defined as Rist Canyon area 1 and served primarily by RCVFD Station 1 located at 11822 Rist Canyon Road.

Whale Rock/Saddle Ridge: Whale Rock is a residential area accessed by Whale Rock Road which branches south from Rist Canyon Road at about Mile 8.5. The Whale Rock area also includes portions of Saddle Ridge. The eastern part of Whale Rock and all of Saddle Ridge lies within Poudre Fire Authority Fire Protection District. However, RCVFD provides automatic mutual aid to PFA in these areas. RCVFD Station 4 is located within the Whale Rock area.

Pine Acres: Pine Acres is a rugged area located north of Rist Canyon Road. Pine Acres is accessed by a single road about Mile 9 of Rist Canyon Road and has only a few residences.

Davis Ranch/Redstone Estates: The Davis Ranch/Redstone Estates residential area is located south of Rist Canyon road about Mile 10. This area also includes the RistVue area. Davis Ranch is the most populous residential area in RCVFD's response area.

Stratton Park: Stratton Park is the residential area lying north of Rist Canyon Road and by Stratton Park Road at about Mile 14 of Rist Canyon Road.

Stove Prairie: Stove Prairie is a relatively large and dispersed area defined more by the geography and Stove Prairie Road than a collection of homes. It extends from the intersection of Stove Prairie Road and Buckhorn Canyon Road, north past Rist Canyon Road to about 1 mile south of the Poudre Canyon (Colorado Highway 14). RCVFD Station 3 is located approximately .5 mile from the intersection of Rist Canyon Road and Stove Prairie Road.

Paradise Park: Paradise Park is a residential area west of Stove Prairie Road with access at about Mile 1.5. Paradise Park is served by RCVFD Station 3.

Buckhorn Canyon: Currently the "Buckhorn Canyon" area is defined as running from the RCVFD boundary at Mile 14 on Buckhorn Canyon Road to Mile 33. However, there are a number of distinct areas along this road with different population profiles and wildland fire issues.

Forest Areas: RCVFD provides first out mutual aid response to a significant portion of U.S. Forrest Service and governmentally owned land. The aid in general includes private land within the department's boundaries, mapping, designating fire route designations, response pre-planning, and governmental agency cooperative efforts.

Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department History

Reality Check

Have you ever thought of what it takes to equip and maintain a volunteer fire department over the course of 50 years? Emergency response has become a highly sophisticated area of expertise. Volunteers are expected to respond to and handle as wide a variety of emergencies as full-time paid-professional responders. As the population density and number of visitors to the area increases, RCVFD continues to see a more diverse set of responses and a higher level of expectations.

Today's responders are highly trained individuals working as a team. Required training and refresher training areas include, but are not limited to, wildland and structural fire; medical response, including packaging and stabilizing patients for transport from wilderness areas; on and off highway vehicle accidents crashes and fires, including electric cars and how to maintain the scene safely; hazardous gas incidents including carbon monoxide exposure; chimney fires; self-contained breathing apparatus usage; incident command and radio protocols; chainsaws; ropes for low angle rescue; and proper ladder usage.

Emergency response by RCVFD operates using LIP priorities: *Life safety*. Safety for responders and all the personnel at the scene. This includes safely driving to and from the scene.

Incident stabilization. i.e. "taking care of the problem" whether it is putting out a fire, resolving medical emergencies, or controlling traffic at the scene of a motor vehicle accident.

Property protection. Protection and salvage of personal property.

This is an extremely abbreviate list of equipment necessary for every responder. Each needs to have fully certified personal protective gear, wildland pants, shirts, boots, helmet, gloves, pack (including its contents), bunker gear (jacket, pants, boots, gloves, and a shroud), explosion proof flashlight, two radios, and much more. The cost for each responder is well over \$7,500 per firefighter. RCVFD firefighters have fully certified personal protective gear. Those responders who are willing, able, and are trained to use a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and full bunker gear also are provided with this equipment.

RCVFD volunteer responders train twice a month for several hours each session. They maintain their equipment and often buy additional gear at their own expense. They respond to emergencies day or night, which is often in bad weather. The EMTs (emergency medical technicians) take extensive online and in-person training, are tested, and participate in continuing education courses to keep up their certifications.



**Volunteer Mia Lauenroth
in firefighter gear**

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Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department History

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The landscape of emergency medical services continues to evolve becoming more complex in the pre-hospital environment. Medical responders each need all the gear in our previous list plus a medical bag that includes items such as oxygen tanks and masks, blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, splints, bandages, and a wide variety of other supplies to handle all types of emergency situations. The EMTs carry Narcan, Epinephrine, Albuterol, and other non-narcotic medicines. There are also an increasing number of items that require attention that EMTs carry in their jump bags. Medical responders also require an ambulance with gurney and other patient transport equipment, AEDs, and other medical equipment required to fully outfit an ambulance.

Due to the department's service area, over time vehicles specifically adapted to the terrain and department demands have been added. Today the department has a 13-vehicle fleet meeting these specifications. In 2025 the department purchased E414 (The Beast). E414 is a Type 4x 4x4 wildland truck designed to access remote/rough terrain and carries 1,250 gallons water. This truck is second out on structure calls and as needed on wildland calls. A full list with descriptions of today's vehicle inventory is available at RCVFD Fleet Inventory.

The RCVFD also must have secure and warm station houses to store and maintain these vehicles. The stations must have spare equipment for restocking and repairs after each incident.



Truck training helps newer responders brush up on their operation skills with hands-on practice and guidance from experienced colleagues.



Photos from upper left, clockwise: Asst. Chief Carol Dollard & Lyle Benson in Truck 433; Jim Terrell & Tim Fecteau inspect pumps and fittings on Truck 433 while Carol Dollard & Tanner Squibb look on; Erica Michel practices using medical equipment in Ambulance M1; Chief Medical Officer Karen Steadman (center) reviews medical supplies with Debbie Benson, Lt. Mike Wilkins, Erica Michel, & Darcy Budge.

Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department History

The RCVFD Community

The historical number of landowners/residents in the RCVFD service area, data from Larimer County records and estimates based on that data, are shown below. Today there are an estimated 1,400* landowners in the RCVFD coverage area. Looking at the donor and volunteer base, historically only 30 percent of property owners provide support. This is not a statistic that allows the department to economically sustain and provide support for the long-term needs of the department. When annual property tax statements arrive in the mail there are no assessments, mill levies, or special district taxes added to support the fire department unlike in towns, cities, and special districts where these fees automatically are added to property tax bills. A tax district would mean county, state and federal regulations would be imposed.

Year	Number of residents / landowners
1975	312
1988	500
1992	>600
2006	688
2009	1,072
2010	1,038
2018	>1,200
2022	1,206
2024	>1,400
2025	>1,400

The RCVFD Gate Lock Plan is in place to ensure access to properties with electronic or locked gates. For emergency access, land owners should contact LETA911 to register the gate code with Larimer County Dispatch (*see article on page 7 for more information*).

Residents need to be aware that RCVFD does not conduct prescribed burns. A prescribed burn is intended to rid the forest of dead fuels by intentionally igniting fire on the landscape, thus reducing fuel loading. To the west and south, the U.S. Forest Service does burns to clean forest matter.

RCVFD Station No. 1 has an online weather station, available at Weather in Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department Station Number 1 (Colorado), United States. www.ViewWeather.com

Future Goals

As the number of residents and visitors to the area continues to grow, it is important that the number of responders increase. Today almost 50 responders are either trained or in training. The goal is to have a minimum of four responders serving each station. Maintaining an adequate number of non-responder volunteers, including operational support persons, will also be necessary.

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Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department History

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The number of vehicles in the fleet will need to grow. It will be important that a vehicle not become obsolete in terms of capabilities and technologies to meet the growing and varied demands placed upon it. Dealing with lithium batteries and electric cars are examples of what likely will be just the beginning of new challenges responders can and will face. The goal is to have all primary vehicles refurbished or replaced when 25 years old. Today there are four vehicles approaching this category

As advancements in firefighting and applied technologies are made available for first responders, it is important the department be an early adopter. This helps ensure the safety of responders and provides them with the resources to do the best job possible.

The importance of having an adequate number of EMTs will continue to be a priority. This means ensuring adequate resources to provide ongoing educational opportunities for existing EMTs as well as train new ones.

Maintaining and adding a new fire station is an important component that should not be overlooked. Currently, the RCVFD has three stations: Station No. 1 at 11835 Rist Canyon Road; Station No. 3, 17457 Rist Canyon Road; and Station No. 4, 109 Ridge Row Drive (Whale Rock). Station 3 will soon need to be refurbished and enlarged to house larger vehicles. One of the next goals is to build a station in the west side of the response area (south Stove Prairie and Buckhorn Canyon) as responders in that area become available.

As the 50th anniversary celebration draws to a close, the department is diligently working to update the Community Wildland Protection Plan (CWPP). The purpose of the CWPP is to formalize and coordinate efforts for ongoing proposals to help the community prepare for wildland fires and mitigate potential effects. The plan will examine the critical infrastructure and planning necessary related to each of these items: (i) information related to mitigation efforts and what can be done to address fire issues generally and in particular instances; (ii) public education and efforts to involve community members in a preparing for wildland fire; (iii) response planning both for the RCVFD as well as the members of the community; (iv) planning for future activities including growth and urban intrusion; (v) hazard preparation for events such as pine beetle infestations; and (vi) documentation of specific hazard areas.

Heartfelt Thank You for 50 Years of Volunteerism and Support

As individuals and a community, we extend a sincere, heartfelt Thank You to every RCVFD first responder past, present, and future. Also deserving of mention and appreciation is an impressive group of Board officers and members, and community volunteers that formed the organizational backbone to support responders throughout 50 years.

Photo album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/9TbnnRXpvk3fACGa9> .

STOVE PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



STOVE PRAIRIE PRESCHOOL

Did you know we have a preschool program? Stove Prairie Preschool begins enrollment at age 3- must be potty trained. UPK is accepted! Visit www.alphabest.org, or call the school for more information!

Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Manda Stove's Pre-K Teacher

Ms. Manda moved to Colorado from St. Louis in 1999, and has lived in our Mountain community for 19 years. This is her 10th year as the Stove Prairie Preschool Teacher. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in leading her classroom, and has an AA in Child Development. She loves reading, traveling and all things outdoors.



Ms Manda says, "It's very important to me to create a warm, fun environment as children's first introduction to a classroom experience. My hope is that they will gain a love of school and feel supported and successful throughout their academic years. Our preschool program is a wonderful way for rural families to meet their neighbors and join our PSD school community. I am so grateful to be a part of that!"



MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS NEW LEADERSHIP



We are excited to share that Angel Herrick will be joining the Mountain Schools community as our next principal beginning next school year. Angel brings a strong commitment to student-centered learning, collaboration, and community engagement. Please join us in welcoming Angel to Mountain Schools — we are excited for the future and the continued success of our Mountain Schools!

For Preschool attendance, your child must be 3 years of age, and potty trained. Enrollment is open at all times during the school year!

Volunteer Opportunity

Bake Sale Tent

Please Donate Baked Goods for the 2026 Rist Canyon Mountain Festival.

Pecan pie, apple pie, bumbleberry pie, peach pie...what's your favorite? Our amazing community bakers outdid themselves last year with handcrafted, mouthwatering pies and assorted baked goods. THANK YOU to all in the community who donated baked goods and helped at the festival in 2025. Last year, the bake tent sold out of all goodies, and we aim to do it again this year! Please continue baking those pies, as they remain the most popular big-ticket, sale items. Lower-cost, small items such as cookies, brownies, bars, specialty desserts, breakfast treats, and breads also helped profits soar!

For those new to the festival, all proceeds of the bake sale are directly donated to the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department. Baking, donating, and purchasing baked goods are the perfect and tasty way to include the whole family in supporting our volunteer firefighters and EMS. Additionally, volunteers are more than welcome to help in the bake tent at the festival. Closer to the festival date, an RCVFD Community Information email will be sent out, asking for festival volunteers. If you have any questions or would like to be placed on the volunteer list, please feel free to contact me. Let's make the 2026 Rist Canyon Mountain Festival the best year yet!

Darcy Budge
Bake Sale Chair
bakesale@rcvfd.org

Submissions to the Ristwatch

Submissions of written work or photographs are welcome and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please send submissions to the Ristwatch Editor at ristwatch@rcvfd.org.

The Ristwatch reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject, or cancel any article or ad at any time. We base this decision on our responsibility to our readers. We will not knowingly print any article or ad that is misleading or untruthful. Articles submitted to the Ristwatch are a representation of the author and not necessarily an endorsement by the RCVFD.

Volunteer Opportunity

BOOK SALE NEWS

It's spring-cleaning time! Please go through your book collection and check if you have some you'd like to donate and refer neighbors or friends that need to get rid of books to us. All proceeds from donated books that are sold at the Mountain Festival go to our incredible RCVFD.

Drop off books anytime at the donation box in front of Fire House Station # 1, located at 11835 Rist Canyon Road or the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ near the Bellvue Post Office. Starting in June we will also have drop boxes at the Laporte Hardware Store and Laporte Pizza. We can pick up books at your location too. Please call or text Patti Clutter on 858-248-6328 to coordinate a pick-up.

The Book Tent Volunteers (Bees) are busy sorting books in preparation for the Mountain Festival. It's a great group of people and we're always happy to welcome more volunteers. We also really need some folks that can carry heavy boxes from the firehouse to the storage unit. If you'd like to join us, please call or text me and I'll add your name to the email list for meeting notifications.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Patti Clutter, Chair clutterp28@gmail.com, 858-248-6328

Carolyn Stanley, Co-Chair cloud9sewing@gmail.com, 970-221-2024; **Kathy Cox, Co-Chair.**

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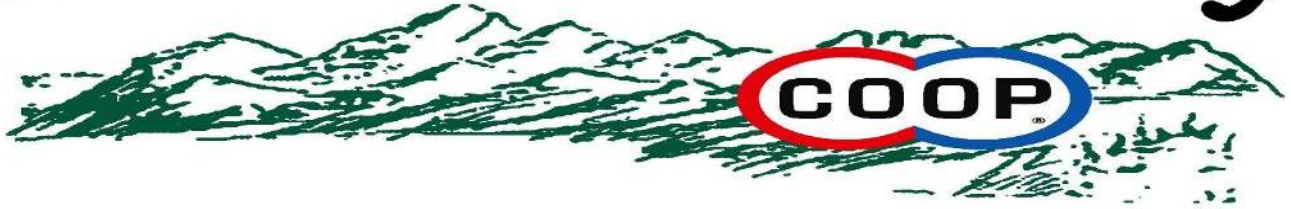
Some creative RCVFD volunteer created this hose roller for us years ago.

We could really use a couple more (and this one needs a few repairs).

We can pay for materials. Contact Carol @ assistantchief@rcvfd.org if you can help.



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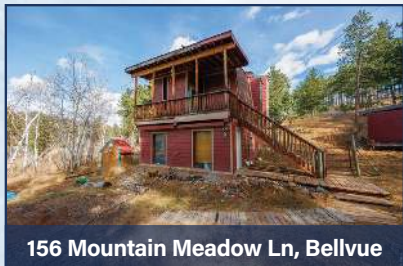
4119 Davis Ranch Rd, Bellvue

- ~ 40 Acres
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440 La Hermosa Dr, Bellvue

- 5 bed, 3 baths, 9.67 acres
- Complete horse set up
- Large barn & hay/ tractor storage



156 Mountain Meadow Ln, Bellvue

- ~ 5 Acres
- 2 bed, 1 bath, 1247 sqft
- Rustic sanctuary



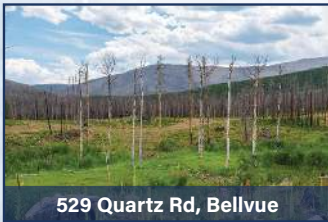
102 Spruce Mountain Dr, Drake

- ~ 2.1 Acres
- Looking for a project or investment?
- Room for a barn, shop or garage.



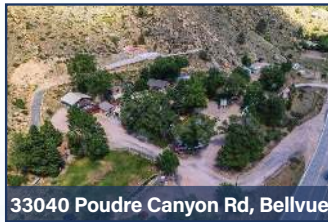
106 Beartrap Rd, Red Feather Lakes

- ~ 4.93 Acres
- 4 bed, 4 bath, 3941 sqft
- Crystal Lakes mtn get-away



529 Quartz Rd, Bellvue

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- National forest around you



33040 Poudre Canyon Rd, Bellvue

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0 TBD Stratton Park Rd Lot 3, Bellvue

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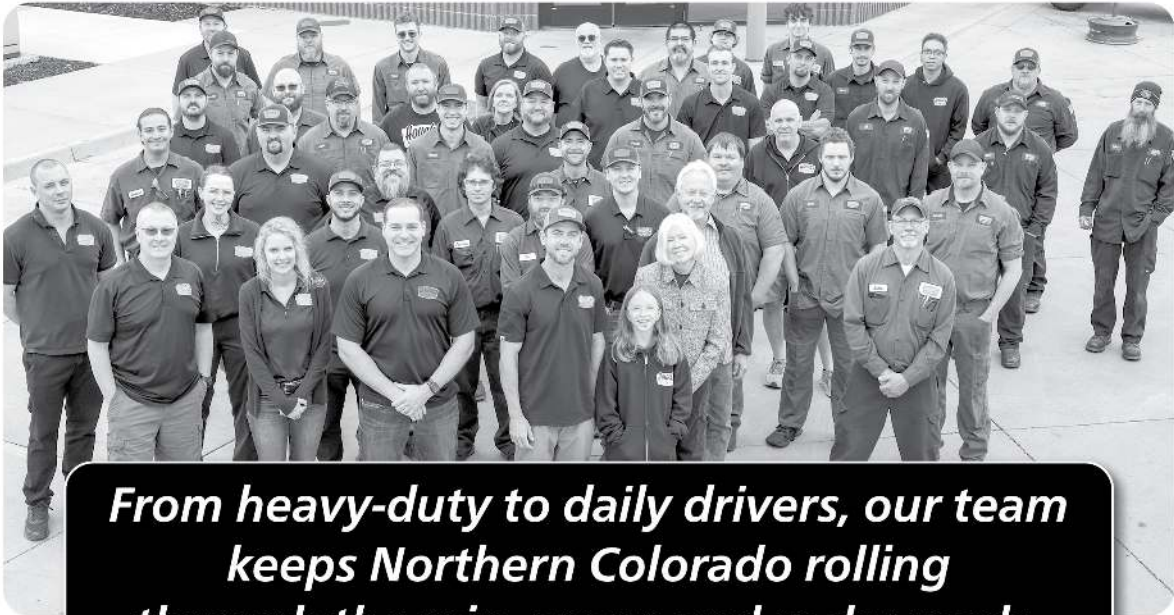


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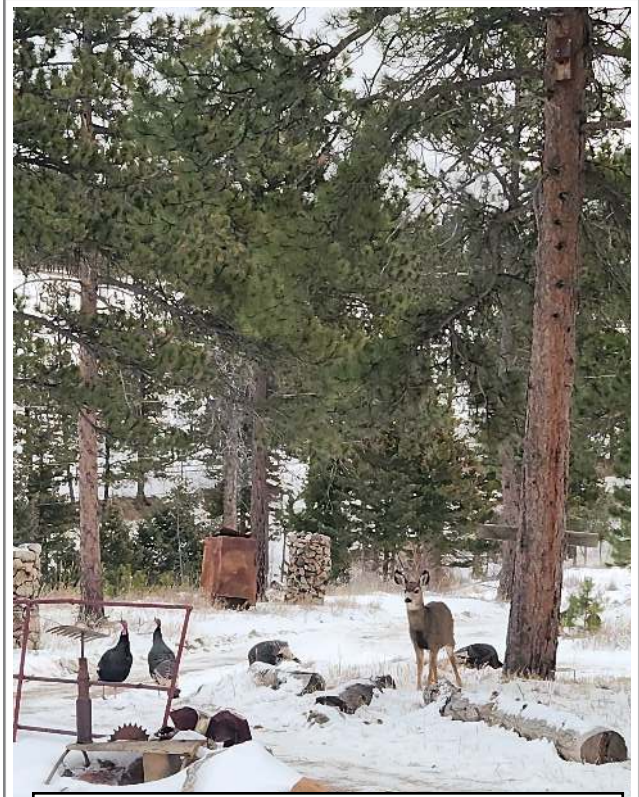


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Colorado Gives Day is Tuesday, December 10th.
Please Spread the WORD to family and friends!

It's easy—just post this link:

<http://coloradogives.org/RistCanyonVolunteerFireDepartment>

to Facebook and ask them to donate!

Your fire department Thanks You!



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**If we missed you, email Diane
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