



Evolution of Equipment Logos Through the Years

Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department 50-Year History

The Early Years: Pre-1975-1980

Prior to the formation of the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department (RCVFD), neighbors in the Rist Canyon-Stove Prairie area ran to the house next-door to call for help. Later a phone tree was organized to quickly reach more people. This however, had limited capabilities because the high expense of telephone installation service in the area limited the number of households with phones. The next step was neighbors began organizing to help in emergency situations. Caches of firefighting tools were stored throughout the community and fire wardens organized neighbors to fight wildfires that threatened the area. Equipment was minimal. A very basic training course was established to show resident volunteers how to avoid injury and more effectively fight wildfires.

Reality Check

In 1975, the Rist Canyon-Stove Prairie region had reached a critical juncture. A greater number of forest fires were annually occurring in the area (eight per year), more than in any other Larimer County region. Added to this was the fire potential was worsening because of the increasing population (residents and non-resident visitors) and growing severity of pine bark-beetle infestations.

At that time the region was not located within any fire protection district. None of the surrounding departments were obligated to fight structural fires in the area. Pursuant to state law, the Larimer County Sheriff's Office had, and still maintains, jurisdiction over wildland fires in the county. The sheriff is the fire marshal and has responsibility for wildland fires on non-incorporated private lands in that county. If there is a formal fire district, which RCVFD is not, the sheriff has responsibility. The closest fire department is dispatched regardless of an area's coverage territory or ownership. In the event of a fire in a federal- or Bureau of Land Management-designated area, the federal fire service at times may respond without local assistance. Larimer County operates under the nearest available resource protocol for fires.

The first fire department organizational meeting was held on April 12, 1975. Some 75 residents and land owners responded to an invitation from Ted Bania (an area resident and retired state forester) and Mark Horvat (state district forester) to form a volunteer fire department. Horvat advised those in attendance that if they established a volunteer fire department, the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) would provide an indefinite loan of a 1947 Army surplus 2½ ton, 1,000-gallon 6x6, GMC REO, pumper truck in excellent operating condition. (This vehicle would remain in use until the 1990s when it was replaced by a vintage Korean War vehicle.)

The truck was part of a program (that continues today) managed by the Division of Fire Prevention and Control in Fort Collins. Surplus federal military equipment is refurbished and outfitted to fire service specifications and provided at little or no cost to departments.

The truck would be at the department's disposal for fire-fighting purposes, subject to the following stipulations. The department would be required to provide:

- a. A sturdy, heated building to house the truck;
- b. Liability insurance and upkeep on the truck, including gasoline and oil;
- c. Training and certification of personnel prior to their being permitted to operate the truck;
- d. The required fire-fighting equipment, as designated by the forest service, such as hoses, nozzles, tool cache, and accessories; and
- e. Agree that on occasion the truck could be called away temporarily to another Larimer County fire.

By the conclusion of the meeting those present were overwhelmingly in favor of forming a volunteer fire department and endorsed the development of plans to move forward. Preliminary bylaws and the response coverage area were agreed upon. Sixteen attendees responded to the call to form an organizing committee. This

committee created six subcommittees: incorporation and by-laws, boundary and membership, building, equipment and training, communications, and finance/fundraising.

The next meeting was held on May 16. Officers were elected and at the end of the meeting the foundation for RCVFD had been laid. Newly elected, President Steven Cox called for volunteer firefighters with the following, "If you're over 18, in reasonably good health, either male or female, and interested in joining or helping our fire crews, please contact one of the department officers."

By August, about 20 people had volunteered and weekly training sessions were underway. Also, that summer, the volunteers and local residents were spending weekends doing wildfire mitigation cutting standing dead timber that Colorado National Guard volunteers hauled to Fort Collins to be sold.

As quickly as October of that year, the volunteer firefighter's training was put into action at a house fire in Stratton Park. A natural gas refrigerator explosion caused the fire. The house was destroyed; however, the fire did not spread past the single structure, which was a big win.

Building a Foundation

This early group of individuals understood from the beginning they were embarking on a venture that would be both impactful for generations to come and it would not be easy. On June 2, 1975, the RCVFD was officially incorporated in the State of Colorado as a 504 non-profit corporation. This designation allowed the newly created volunteer fire or ambulance corporation to accept tax deductible donations.

The department would ultimately be a group of dedicated individuals and community supporters whose purpose was to work together to extinguish and prevent fires, both wildland and structural, within the area defined for the RCVFD (38 square mile area; more than 24,000 acres) northwest of Fort Collins.

Funding

Early on, organizers made the conscious effort to build an independent, donation-supported organization thus making it more effective, efficient, and committed to its constituents rather than acting through a state-governed tax district.

The organizing committee proposed that initially each property owner (approximately just over 300 at the time) donate an average of \$25-\$30, so priority needs for the upcoming fire season could be met. Thereafter, an average donation of \$10 per year would "keep the department alive." The bylaws stated that general membership in the RCVFD was granted with a minimum annual contribution of \$10 per household. They hoped to average \$20 per membership. Two types of memberships were designated. These were "active" (trained and certified as firefighters) and general. Dues/donations were set at \$10 per family. Being a 504 non-profit corporation, the donors then became the voting members of the corporation.

By November 1975, general membership was 107 family units. Within this group, 23 individuals indicated they wanted to be firefighters.

The initial funding estimates were highly dependent upon volunteer labor, specifically for building the requisite Station No.1. Materials for the proposed station were estimated to be \$7,000. It quickly became apparent that fundraising opportunities and events would be critical to sustain the essential financial support. The first two fundraisers were a benefit dance at the American Legion Hall and a couple's box supper.

Since the initial formation of the RCVFD, a significant amount of fire-fighting equipment had been acquired. Some was donated by the forest service, some by companies with interests in the area, and some purchased with federal matching funds. The initial equipment included a three-axle-drive, 1,000-gallon pumper truck including the hoses, nozzles, and hand tools to equip the truck; two caches of fire-fighting tools; an air breather kit; a two-way radio unit; and 3,000-gallon water tank to be installed at Station No.1.

Fire Station No.1

After studying a map of the newly formed 38 square mile district, Lowell Johnson's ranch was located in the middle of the area. To his dismay, in order to donate three-tenths of an acre of land for the station, Larimer County was requiring him to, among other steps, install curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. With a resident's pro-bono legal help, the station was eventually approved sans these improvements.

The department then qualified for a long-term, low interest Farmers Home Administration (FHA) loan enabling the station to move forward. RCVFD promised to pay to the order of the United States of America,



1975 ground breaking ceremony



At far left, Station No.1 ground breaking ceremony with 1947 Army surplus pumper truck from the CSFS. Grading for Station No.1. Below, fall 1976 completed building.

acting through the FHA, United States Department of Agriculture \$10,000 plus 5 percent interest. It was signed by Stephen Cox, Oct. 8, 1976, and was paid in full on Nov. 19, 1998.

The 244th Engineering Construction Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, excavated the hill for the station. Harold Laughlin was the project construction engineer along with an all-volunteer labor force. The building was finished by late fall of 1976.

Firefighters

Early firefighters received very little training and what they did receive was focused strictly on fighting wildfires. There was minimal training with little or no regard to structural fires, rescue, or medical emergencies. Trucks were all wildland focused with no real structural fire equipment. In addition, these early firefighters had no protective gear, so fought fires in blue jeans and cotton shirts.

Equipment

The RCVFD fleet was initially based upon World War II vintage military trucks converted to fire trucks. The first, seen above, being a 1947 Army surplus pumper truck from the CSFS.

Nona Tyeyer, Larimer County Commissioner, was instrumental in getting Larimer County to make available three Jeep M715 5/4 Korean War Army trucks that were donated after the catastrophic 1976 floods. In 1978 Firefighter Martin "Marty" Roubal converted the three jeeps into two usable 250-gallon pumper vehicles. AT&T donated a 1972 Chevy van. The fleet was growing.

In 1976 the department applied for federal matching-funds assistance to obtain a number of slip-on pumper units to be placed in the four-wheel-drive pickup trucks of active members. These were quick-reaction units, which were pre-positioned in various critical locations around the area during the height of fire season.

Early Fundraising

In what would become an annual tradition, the first Mountain Festival was held in 1979. In years prior, several individual activities had been scheduled throughout the summer. In 1979, Sunday, Sept. 2 was selected as the annual single day for all fund-raising efforts. The goal was to organize a festival day at which multiple activities would be offered. Nearly \$1,000 was raised to go toward Station No.1 and equipment costs.

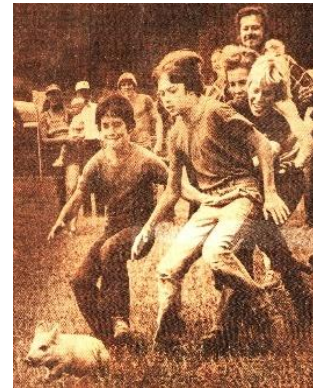


House fire in 1979. Seen here the firefighters wear no protective gear. Both here are wearing blue jeans.



1979 inaugural festival

Early on the festival expanded into the meadow adjacent to Station No.1. The festival owes deep gratitude to Bob and Dorothy Stringer (Gail Michaud's parents) who started the tradition of allowing the festival to be held in their meadow. Gratefully, Gail and Gene Michaud have continued that tradition. The meadow has, since the very early years, been the ideal location for the annual fundraiser.



1979 festival greased pig contest, Coloradoan.



Early Festival "shuttle"

These first festivals included a diverse variety of activities including turkey shoots (with both black powder and .22-caliber rifle competitions), Indian dancers from the Taos Pueblo in New Mexico, bake-offs, log-splitting contest, greased pig and chicken chases, bingo, beer and Kool-Aid chug-a-lugs, logging contests, arts and crafts sales, aerobic challenge biathlon, logging events, throwing and pitching skills contests, horse shoe

challenges, cow chip bingo, Latvian fish bowl, antique and squirrel markets, chili suppers, raffles, one- and three-mile runs, Rist Canyon hill climb bike race, flea market, rummage and yard sales, dances, poker runs, Rist Canyon cookbooks, bike races, off road safari, 10K run, and Jack Russell Terrier races.

RCVFD prepares for and enters the 21st century

1981-2011

The year 1981 was a pivotal year in shaping the future of the RCVFD. Major events transpired that in looking back would set the department on the trajectory for where it would be 50-years later.

In 1981 the Larimer County Sheriff requested the department add to its priorities protecting structure fires. Having originally been established, and having responders trained to only fight wildland fires, this ultimately would become a significant topic of discussion in the evolution of the department. At the time, the limitations of resources, training, and equipment dictated that structure fire response remain "we will do the best we can." The implications for adding structure fire capabilities however, were further escalated as simultaneously the area was at the height of a pine bark-beetle epidemic killing



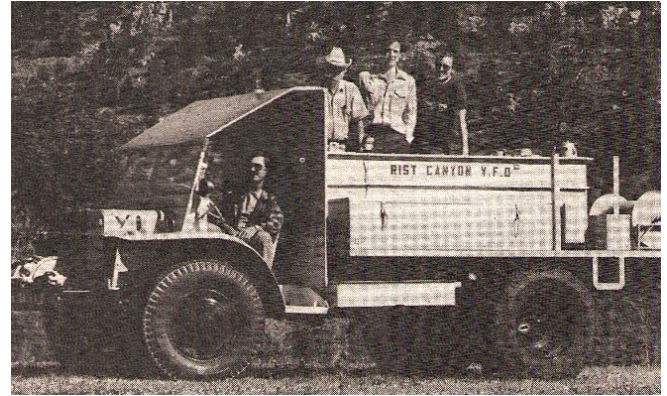
1989 pump training

thousands of trees.

That same year, the forest service asked RCVFD to enter into a contract to provide personnel and equipment in the event of fires on adjacent federal lands. A small, independent, all-volunteer fire department taking this leap forward was monumental although prudent given the potential danger of not stopping the spread of wildland fires on federal bordering lands.

During this time also, the Larimer County commissioners and sheriff's department were pressuring RCVFD to become a fire protection district. The board and community members remained highly resistant to the tax assessments and mill levies that becoming a fire protection district would require. In 1982, the pressure was serious enough that residents of Middle Buckhorn Canyon went to the RCVFD Board saying they did not want the department to even voluntarily respond to fires in their area. At the time the Buckhorn area was not within the RCVFD's official coverage region; however, the department was providing coverage.

An ongoing public controversy in 1982 was that the Mountain Bell Phone Company refused to install a public telephone at Station No.1 at an affordable cost. Sheriff Jim Black, presenting testimony at a Public Utilities Commission hearing noted, "The lack of a telephone in Rist Canyon for reporting emergencies 'is a significant problem.'" A semi-public phone, ringing only to the sheriff's office, would cost \$315 to install and \$76 monthly. This would have been a significant expenditure for the department given its budget at the time.



1943 Ford WW II vehicle. From left Gene Michaud, Jon Stephens, Jim McDonald, and Bob Gann. *Coloradoan*

In the 1980s, the fleet of vehicles was continuing to grow with the addition of an International Travel All donated by Bob Cunningham, a Korean War vintage 1943 Ford Bomb Service Truck, and a GMC Reo replaced by WWII version (E412).

Interestingly, E411 was only recently retired and replaced.

New recruits in the 1980s, who still today remain as active responders, are Carol Dollard, Larry Monesson, and Kim Workman. Each has made, and continues to make, significant contributions in leadership and support positions for the department.

During the next decade, the RCVFD continued its early transition into the department as it exists in 2026. The foundation established in 1975 would be expanded with the founding principles still intact: building an independent, donation-supported organization making it more effective, efficient, and committed to its constituents rather than acting through a state-governed tax district. The department would also remain highly dependent upon volunteer labor, strong community involvement, and donations.

In 1990 Steve Cox donated a 1943 Ford World War II U.S. Navy heavy-duty, 4-wheel-drive bomb service vehicle with a crane whose chassis was converted into the department's newest pumper (No.43). The vehicle was officially known as a "Navy bomb service truck," also known as a Burma truck, that originally was used to load bombs on aircraft carriers in WWII. It had only 3,000 miles on the odometer, making it a reliable workhorse. A 750-gallon water tank was installed on the chassis along with other emergency response equipment.

In 1990, RCVFD joined Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA), a 911 governing body and political subdivision of the state of Colorado. LETA was created through an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) that established it as a separate legal entity. The counties, cities, towns, hospital and health services districts, fire authorities, fire protection districts, and Colorado State University, who signed LETA's IGA, made LETA responsible for the installation, administration, management, operation, maintenance, upgrading, and enhancements of emergency telephone service and emergency notification service within LETA's jurisdiction. This jurisdiction encompasses Larimer and Jackson counties.

In 1991 a pivotal election also took place. Robert "Bob" Gann was elected as the RCVFD fire chief. Bob was able to build upon the strong foundation established by his predecessor's 15-plus years of hard work and dedication to move the department forward. He was adamant that firefighters have the training and tools necessary to transition the department into the 21st century. Bob went on to serve 30 years in the department, 22 years as the chief.



Above, early crew transport vehicle later used as a QRT.

A major milestone for the department was reached on March 1, 1992. This is when RCVFD trained volunteers first responded to a medical emergency. Adding basic life services to the department's response capabilities was controversial at the time with Larry Monesson leading the movement. He also would become RCVFD's

first fully certified medical officer. Intensive medical training began in 1991. This began what now is considered to be one of the core emergency services of the department.

Today, medical services are rendered by emergency responders who are willing and fully certified. In recent years, department responses have been more than 75 percent medical related in years when there were no major fires.

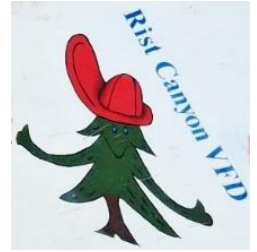
The first quick response transport (QRT) vehicle was an International Travel All previously used for crew transport. A QRT is used to transport individuals to the nearest available advanced medical care. This typically is a

helicopter or advanced life support ambulance dispatched from Fort Collins or Loveland. The Travel All was used as a QRT until 1996 when it was replaced by an Emergency Medical Services grant-funded Chevrolet Suburban.



Below, E641 donated by Anheuser Busch with the Risty logo.

In 1992 residents were introduced to a little character created as the department's mascot. Risty, at right, popped up in various locations from 1992-1995, although he has seldom been seen thereafter. He still, however is on Engine E641 housed at the Whale Rock Station, a vehicle generously donated by Anheuser Busch.



With the now expanded medical response responsibilities, improved notification capabilities became a growing priority. Through the years, RCVFD responders have experienced firsthand the advances in paging technology. The initial paging was based on the Larimer County

Dispatch (sheriff's office) setting off a small number of "radio pagers". These emitted a tone followed by dispatch announcing in a scratchy, barely comprehensible voice describing the emergency. Volunteers then called a phone tree (party lines were the norm at the time). Later a few phone pagers were added – little beepers that would show a phone number. The responders with a beeper would call dispatch to receive the information.



Wilbur Ritch and Chuck Andre, Buckhorn Fire in the early 1990s, *Coloradoan*

The next step was RCVFD Volunteer Chuck Andre building a custom recorder installed in the basement of the sheriff's office. That recorder was triggered by a voice pager and recorded the scratchy message. RCVFD volunteers then called and listened to that recording.

RCVFD has often led volunteer fire departments in the region in adopting new equipment and approaches. It became the first volunteer department in the county to upgrade to the digital pagers in 1993. However, it took some time for the department to purchase enough pagers for every primary responder. Eventually with the purchase of 16 new digital pagers, it tied all primary responders into the new emerging countywide digital system. That system, combined with cell-phone based paging is still in use today.

The Enhanced 911* (E911) emergency reporting system was not implemented in Larimer County until 1995 and RCVFD was ready. When the county implemented E911, RCVFD firefighters went to every house in the area to check that dispatch was receiving the correct address location from the home's landline phone. The project took several weeks and hundreds of volunteer hours.

It was during this time that RCVFD embarked on discussions to enlarge its coverage area. Acting on a combination of residents' requests and heightened recognition of Larimer County's response profile being "nearest available resource," RCVFD would now officially be responding in an expanded area. As the department was not a tax district, the extension simply required a by-law change. The move made sense as the extension had informally been discussed for a number of years. The enlarged coverage area was then identified as including Rist Canyon, Stove Prairie, and the Buckhorn (7-8 miles up Buckhorn Canyon), as well as providing mutual aid in conjunction with other local emergency response agencies for an additional 70 square miles of adjacent lands. The RCVFD's 1975 wildland response area had officially grown from the original 24,000 acres.

On June 4, 1994, the revised RCVFD by-laws coverage area was redefined as a 51 square mile fire response area nested within a larger 76 square mile medical response area. The department's actual operational footprint would be significantly larger. In actuality, the primary response area encompassed approximately 105 square miles for both fire and medical calls, reflecting the full extent of where the department would routinely respond within the community. This expanded footprint went beyond the by-law boundaries due to practical service realities and was further supplemented by the additional 70 square miles of mutual aid area, making the effective coverage closer to 175 square miles.



Early photo of responders

Mountain Festival Art Auction

In 1994 (until 2016) the RCVFD Mountain Festival took on a new identity. Area residents Richard Schmid, a well-known artist and author, along with his wife Nancy Guzik suggested the department try reaching outside the department's mountain community for funding and an art auction was born. Richard donated, and recruited other artists to donate, fine art for an auction to be held in conjunction with the festival.

Art auction vital to Rist Canyon



"Sharing," foreground, an oil painting by Lisa Todd, and a variety of other art is displayed at the Richard Schmid Fine Art Auction near Bellvue in 2003. Proceeds from the annual auction benefit the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department.

Richard recruited the artists for the first few years, but it was then up to the festival art committee to stay in contact with the original recruits and enlist new artists. The committee eventually acquired more than 140 artists from across the country. Some submitted works every year, others now and again.

The committee used the art auction to redefine the festival, putting in countless hours to make it a reality. Those leading the effort were Jon and Sue Stephens, Wes and Nicki Rutt, Chuck and Carol Miller, Bonnie Shetler, LaVonne Ewing, MaryAnn Martin, and Charlie Bogusz who would meet a few weeks after the last auction and began

planning the following year's event. It took a great deal of time to annually recruit artists, organize volunteers, receive art from all over the country, develop and revise procedures, design and produce catalogs, and stage marketing events. It was the consistent hard work of more than 90 community volunteers through many years that kept the auction as a successful fundraiser for so long.

Proceeds from those festivals and auctions turned the financial corner for the RCVFD. The extra revenue provided a significant boost for the department at a time when it was needing to grow at a pace fast enough to keep up with the growing number of residents and non-resident visitors in the area. The original family-focused festival concept continued as a way to draw the community together, however the addition of the art auction enabled the department to acquire the funding necessary to adequately equip the department.



Dancers perform at the 2002 Mountain Festival.

Fire Stations

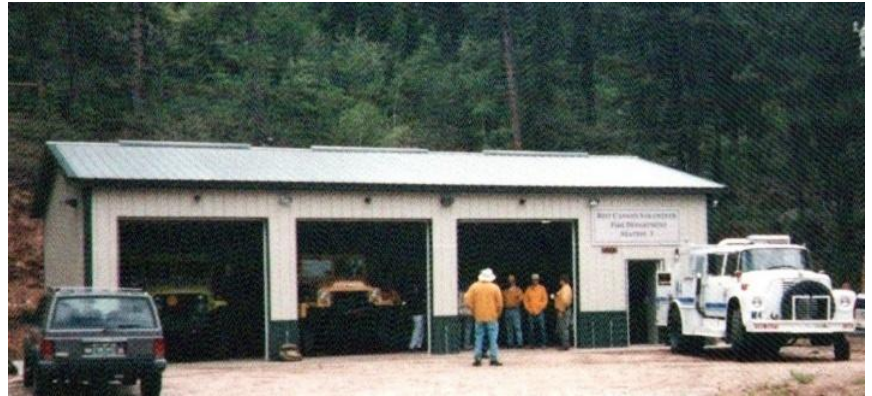


At left, Station No.1 with emergency responders prior to 1994 expansion, *Coloradoan*; above after expansion.

With all the developments in the early 1990s, the RCVFD needed to reprioritize in order to meet the community's expanding needs. The department had outgrown Station No.1. In 1994 three bays were added. Charles Cox planned, designed, and headed up construction for the expansion. Once again, legions of dedicated volunteers stepped up to help reduce the cost of the project.

In the 1990s, Station No.2 was a temporary, seasonal station in Bob and Merle Cunningham's barn on Davis Ranch Road. The small garage was unheated; thus, the water had to be drained each fall. This station was only operational for a few years.

In 1998, Station No.3 became operational located at 17457 Rist Canyon Road on the west side of Ford Hill. The land for the station was donated by John Mugler, Jr. and Mary Lewallen Pesko. Bob Cunningham and Gene Michaud provided key leadership roles in the construction of the station.



Above, left, Richard Lund, Wes Rutt, Slim Sommerville and Kim Workman preparing for Station No.3; Completed station in 1998.

Original Station No.4 dedication plaque pulled from the High Park Fire.



Whale Rock Station No.4 was originally built in 1995 on property donated by Ronald Kerr. The building project was headed by Larry Monesson. Unfortunately, that structure was destroyed in the 2012 High Park Fire. All that remained was the original 1995 dedication plaque.

With the Station No.1 expansion and newly built stations, there also was a significant growth in the size of RCVFD's fleet. The first modern Type 6, 1992 GMC 1 ton, was donated by Anheuser Busch (E641 pictured previously with Risty). A FEMA grant provided a Chevy Suburban QRT vehicle (M11). A second Colorado type 4 GMC 6x6 and second modern type 6x was purchased new by the department. All three of

these vehicles remain in service in 2026.

Jan. 1, 2000-April 2, 2011

Y2K, "Year 2000" a late-1990's computer glitch resulting in a millennium panic at the turn of the 21st century, ushered in not only a new century, but also a new era for RCVFD. Kicking off the year, responders were ready to act with a special operation plan in place should the ominous Y2K bug strike. Crews were on call forgoing any celebrations that night. Three emergency communications centers were established along with amateur radio services arranged. Residents were encouraged to celebrate responsibly, including staying home.

The new century found the department adding significant safety components and responder skills. These included improved evacuation planning, mapping, global positioning system (GPS) tools, and expansion of structural and wildland fire capabilities.

Evacuation planning was conducted to identify routes for the Whale Rock, Buckhorn, Stratton Park, and the Davis Ranch areas. The department also worked with Larimer County to develop and acquire updated mapping in the response area and GPS equipment was purchased. These relationships and resources would later prove to be invaluable when the High Park Fire raged through the region in 2012.

A U.S. Fire Association Fire Act grant enabled the department to purchase nearly \$100,000 in modern personal protective equipment (PPE). This allowed the department to obtain new, unused PPE for the first time. It also was the first time firefighters were provided full sets of wildland firefighting gear. These additions significantly raised the caliber of response and firefighter safety RCVFD was capable of providing when responding to structure and other types of fires.

The first year the department was able to acquire the training necessary to receive a hazardous material certification through the State Hazmat Certification program was in 2001. The program was designed to ensure responders were appropriately trained to recognize hazardous material conditions and take appropriate protective measures such as evacuations. The training is not intended to train responders how to mitigate hazardous materials, but rather to identify the issue, take necessary precautions, and bring in the appropriate resources.

RCVFD was an early adopter of CAFS (Compressed Air Foam System) technologies designed for both structure and wildfire usage. CAFS systems multiply the effect of water by 5 to 10 times i.e. 500 gallons of water + CAFS is as effective as 2,500-5,000 gallons of untreated water. This technology continues to be an important resource today.

Historically, Rist Canyon roads were identified with fire route numbers assigned by the RCFVD to aid in responding to emergencies. In 2006 the Larimer County Rural Address Improvement Program renamed most of the roads and put up the signs we see today. These designations do not imply that a road is public or that people can treat it any differently than any other road, private or public. Except in an emergency, RCFVD may use any road provided if the road is believed to be critical in that emergency.

Also In 2006, the department acquired its first Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) through a grant to enhance fire detection capabilities. The camera allows firefighters to inspect areas of suspected heat, such as fire behind a wall or locate hot spots in wildfires. It can also be used to locate people who may have been thrown or walked away from an accident. (In 2025, RCFVD secured a grant to add three new TIC devices.)

In 2010 the RCFVD Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was published. The purpose of the plan was to formalize and coordinate efforts, ongoing and proposed, to help the community prepare for wildland fires and mitigate the effects. A second purpose was to act as a strategy that allows the department to pursue funding and grants related to wildland fire activities – and to fit in with ongoing activities in neighboring areas. The plan, updated in 2026, is available on the RCFVD website.

RCVFD reached another significant milestone in 2011. This was the first year the number of volunteer firefighters reached 30 individuals. The achievement meant the department now had three 10-person crews.

The fleet of vehicles also continued to expand with the addition of a Ford F550 Type 6 truck and two GMC 5500 Type 6x compressed air foam system trucks, all purchased new. The department purchased a used International Type 3x truck from the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, still in service in 2026, (E313) just in time for the High Park Fire.

These three decades ushered in fire station expansions, adoption of advanced technology, specialized training availability, the ability to provide emergency medical services, and a significantly expanded response area. These milestones provided a foundation to help prepare the RCFVD for the then unforeseen catastrophic events that were on the horizon.

Catastrophic Events Forever Change Lives: 2011-2024



RCVFD emergency responders pay tribute to 9/11 responders and victims.



Top Row From left, Bob Gann, Chuck Andre, Wes Rutt, Tom VanVelsen, Larry Monesson, & Joe Babiarz; bottom left Kim Workman & Jon Stevens. The aluminum helmets were cast-offs from the Forest Service. Larry recalls that, “when on fires with other crews and there was lightning no one would stand near us.”

The outgrowth of national events had direct impacts on the RCFVD. When 19 al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes crashing into the World Trade Center Twin Towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, and the fourth downed in Somerset Co., PA, emergency services nationwide changed forever.

The aftereffects required that RCFVD conform to national standard incident management systems for command and control. Existing areas required expanded training and new areas were added. These would include structural and wildland fire, basic life and medical emergency support, hazardous material, crash incidents, radio protocols, equipment and vehicle training, record keeping, and interagency cooperation. The RCFVD was ushered into a new era of compliance in and provision of emergency services.

Unthinkable Wildland Forest Fires

In 2003 the department was involved in producing a National Fire Department Association fire wise video. *Fire in the Urban Interface "a plan to survive "* is available online at <https://youtu.be/3bpB8WqiwX4?si=-LLLZm3MHa7Mg-94>. The project was produced by Sean and Larry Monnason. Nearly a decade later the High Park Fire became a real-life example of the urban interface conflict depicted in the video.

It is hard to fathom a small volunteer fire department, such as the RCVFD, would be called upon to fight four catastrophic wildfires in nine years within its coverage boundaries. RCVFD emergency responders did just that fighting the four major named fire events in the department's 50-year history. Each of these took place between 2011-2020. They were the Crystal Fire in 2011, High Park Fire in 2012, Cameron Peak Fire in 2020, and the Lewstone Fire in 2020. In addition, the department was busy for weeks when the department's entire service area experienced catastrophic flooding in 2013.

Crystal Fire: April 3-6, 2011, a fire on Crystal Mountain burned 2,940 acres destroying 15 of our neighbor's homes. This fire, which was human caused, started on Crystal Mountain southwest of the Buckhorn Canyon. The fire was nearly contained on initial attack, but was fanned by a sudden nighttime windstorm with winds reaching more than 70 miles per hour. The homes destroyed were caught up as the fire blew up in a matter of minutes. Because the wind struck in the middle of the night, it was a critical life-threatening situation. The Crystal Fire was the first major named fire in the RCVFD 30-plus year history.



2011 Crystal Fire photos.



High Park Fire June 12, 2012, in its first hours as the fire crossed Stove Prairie racing up Ford Hill driven by high winds, already miles from the ignition point in Buckhorn Canyon.

High Park Fire: On June 9, 2012, a lightning strike fire in the Buckhorn Canyon became the wind driven inferno known as the High Park Fire. High Park burned for nearly three weeks and eventually claimed 87,284 acres, destroyed 259 homes and countless other buildings, and tragically took one life. Working alongside more than 2,000 firefighters from across the country, 30 RCVFD firefighters put in nearly 5,000 volunteer hours to help contain the fire. Area residents were evacuated for weeks – finally returning home on June 28. The fire destroyed approximately one-fourth of the homes in our community. Years later, our community is still

recovering – showing a determination and effort that is truly amazing.

The High Park Fire was at that time the third largest fire in state history. It was one of the milestone events triggering Colorado to invest in advanced fire technology. Colorado now leads the nation in this regard. Now in 2026, retired RCVFD Chief Robert Gann continues to participate in advanced technology for public safety as the Deputy Director for Research and Science at the Colorado Center of Excellence for Advanced Technology Aerial Fire Fighting.

After High Park, RCVFD then Chief Gann was awarded the first ever *Wildland Safety Exemplary Service Award* by the National Fire Protection Association.



Some of the RCVFD emergency responders who worked the High Park Fire. This photo was taken about 10 days into the fire. Most of the responders had not slept more than a few hours a night (if at all). At the time of this photo, at least seven of these responders had already lost their homes in the fire, yet they were there with the rest of their team working the blaze.

September 2013 Floods: In September 2013, the Colorado Front Range experienced an extended upslope storm that dumped 14.6 inches of rain over the course of several days at RCVFD Station No.1 and even higher totals



RCVFD responders assess damage near the intersection of Buckhorn Road and Ohana Way, one of the many areas flood waters destroyed roadways.

further south. This storm caused a 500- to 1,000-year flood event that destroyed roads and properties up and down the Colorado Front Range. There were lives lost in Boulder County, but fortunately none in Larimer County. Because of the devastation from the High Park Fire the previous year, the rain caused mudslides that damaged many homes and closed the roads in the canyon multiple times. Of the three roads serving the Rist Canyon area, only Rist Canyon Road survived and it was severely damaged. County Road from the mouth of the Buckhorn Canyon to Masonville was closed for more than a year.

Cameron Peak Fire: On Aug. 13, 2020, this fire started in the Cameron Peak campground in the Poudre Canyon – 30 miles from RCVFD territory. However, it proved to be a difficult fire to contain during hot, dry, windy weather. RCVFD worked with homeowners to try and prepare for the potential of the fire entering our area. Residents of the area were evacuated on three separate occasions as wind drove the fire south and east. Unfortunately, on Oct. 13 high winds pushed the fire into the Buckhorn Canyon and Crystal Mountain area destroying dozens of our neighbor’s homes. The fire continued to burn for months and was not officially contained until Dec. 2, 2020. This fire is the largest fire in Colorado history at 208,663 acres.



Monday, Sept. 7, 2020.



Above from left, Cameron Peak inferno; Phil Benstein, from left, Pedro Boscan, and Juana Jackson near the ranger station in Buckhorn Canyon; firefighters in Stringtown Gulch.



RCVFD crews on an overlook during the Lewstone Fire.

Lewstone Fire: The fire burned 165 acres from Aug. 22-25, 2020. During the Cameron Peak Fire, a slurry bomber pilot heading to Fort Collins for refueling, noted a smoke plume in the Lewstone Creek drainage on the ridge at the eastern edge of Rist Canyon. Resources were quickly diverted to contain and eventually extinguish the fire. Many Rist Canyon residents were evacuated, but the quick discovery and containment of the fire resulted in no homes lost.

In the Interim

Beyond fighting fires, the business of operating a volunteer fire department and responding to day-to-day calls is no small task.

In April 2014 RCVFD transitioned from its 504 nonprofit corporation designation to become a 501c3 nonprofit organization to make it easier for corporate sponsors to donate and to improve eligibility for grants. The advantage of this change was immediate and significant.

As a result of the High Park Fire, RCVFD received significant donations. The department chose to invest that money into rebuilding Station No.1 to accommodate the growing needs of the department and community. The old station was demolished, and the new station was built in the summer of 2013. It included 5 larger bays to better fit the trucks and gear. A second floor was also added with a large training room and office/storage space.



Station 1 interior work showing four of the five bays, January 2015. As with all construction projects, RCVFD volunteers contributed considerable time and effort into making the project a reality.



The new Station No.1.

Volunteers again played a key role in the building project. At right, a group of hardy individuals braved the cold to build the exterior deck to access the upstairs entrance to Station No.1 on March 2, 2014. This was the last step toward finalizing the building project. Not pictured is photographer Carol Dollard.

The original Station No.4 (Whale Rock), which was destroyed in the High Park Fire, was replaced in 2014. The Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute, and a group of contractors, designers, and builders helped to rebuild Station No.4.





Whale Rock rebuilt Station No.4

An even more significant investment in time and effort came from RCVFD volunteers. The concrete block building was rebuilt with two bays and a water cistern inside the station.

Rist Canyon Mountain Festival

The Rist Canyon Mountain Festival experienced yet another evolutionary change in 2018. HJ Siegel, mentored by long-time volunteer Richard Lund, formed the Friends of the Festival committee. The group has met monthly through the years organizing the event. The 2025 event was significantly different from the early years when belly dancers performed in front of an audience seated on hay bales (below at left).



The festival mainstage has evolved from a small platform with hay-bale seating to live bands performing throughout the day. Spectators also now enjoy the entertainment from a large covered viewing tent. Seen here are festival regulars Liz Barnez and the Also Known As (AKA) band.



An annual festival attraction is the emergency responder's booth. Seen here are Jeff Brack, Shawn Zeither, Adam Richards, Jeff Elsner, Mia Lauenroth, Hunter Squibb, Kim Workman, and Jocelyn Wolf.

The festival, as of the 50th anniversary, provides free live music presented on-stage in front of a large covered viewing tent, firefighter booth and demonstrations, firefighter dunk tank, home-grown plant sales booth, large bake and used book sales tents, artisan vendor booths, non-profit organization booths, sheriff's office booths and demonstrations, kid's activity area, nonprofit booths, car show, tractor shuttle to and from the parking lot, food trucks, commemorative t-shirt sales, and the ever popular free ice cream. Following with tradition, there is no admission fee.

The annual event serves three important goals. It raises funds for the fire department and brings the community together working toward a shared purpose. Nonresident attendees are also shown that these scenic mountain areas are communities where people year-round live and work.





Mark McCracken, on right, with unidentified responder, January 2021.

Updating and Expanding Training and Resources

As the number and severity of emergency situations rose annually through this period, the needs of the department also grew. Providing responders with proper safety gear and equipment was always crucial so as advanced technologies became more available in these areas providing better protection and tools for responders was critical. Acquiring and maintaining equipment capable of navigating rough terrain is much different than in urban areas. As wildland equipment improved, acquiring it also was and remains important.

Responders also needed to be trained to meet the growing variety of situations they would potentially encounter. The growing number of electrical vehicles and solar-powered homes with storage battery banks brought new challenges. Assessing these situations as well as other hazardous materials, previously rarely seen, became a large training and resource issue. By 2024, operation of the department only minutely resembled the early years of the organization, yet the dedication of those involved remained steadfast stepping up to the challenges.



RCVFD EMTs demonstrate emergency care at the 2023 festival. Adding and training (initial and ongoing) EMTs has been a critical factor in meeting the demands placed upon the department.

To meet these and other growing demands, during this era the department's fleet also grew to 12 vehicles. Of note was a 2001 Chevy (R-8) donated to the RCVFD from the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority in 2017. It technically is a rescue vehicle. The department added a small tank and pump, as well as hand-tools making it one of the primary response vehicles staged at firefighters' houses. It currently lives in Paradise Park to provide better coverage for that area. R8 is primarily used for quicker initial response on the west side of the RCVFD territory and to improve communications. Truck radios are more powerful than handheld devices.

Another important addition was a 1997 International truck (E313) housed in Station No. 1. This is a Type 3 truck, meaning it carries more water (750 gallons) and has a more powerful pump than a brush truck. Type 3 engines are generally used for delivering water to a fire line, often shuttling between water sources, such as a pond, and a portable tank so that firefighters can use the water with fewer interruptions. Type 3 engines

have the most powerful pump specifications, so if water is being pushed uphill, E313 might sit on-site and do that work.



Routine, ongoing training is a significant aspect of becoming and serving as an emergency responder. Extrication and hose training are seen above.



Aug. 12, 2016 training, above, and RCVFD community open house.



In years when there were no major fires, RCVFD responses were typically more than 75 percent medical or motor vehicle accidents (MVs). Thus, the need for a second ambulance became a priority, one was added in 2023 to enhance patient care. Ambulances are now stationed on both sides of Ford Hill. RCVFD ambulances allow responders to get to patients quickly and start providing care. RCVFD does not transport patients unless the terrain makes it impossible for a University of Colorado Health or Thompson Valley ambulance to arrive at the scene. In these situations, the RCVFD ambulances transport the patient to a waiting UC Health or Thompson Valley ambulance. For seriously injured or very sick patients, the volunteer emergency responders often utilize air ambulances. Helicopters can make the trip to area hospitals in a matter of minutes whereas ground ambulance can be more than an hour. Note that individuals are not charged for an ambulance or helicopter call unless they actually use the service. A person may refuse



Department photo from March 1, 2021



Celebration after April 2021 annual pack test.

transport if conscious and coherent. If transport involves ambulance transport by UC Health, Thompson Valley, or air ambulance, charges will be incurred. All residents are highly encouraged to purchase AirMedCare Network coverage (AirMedCareNetwork.com) which covers costs of the air ambulance if not already covered by their health insurance.

Recognizing June 2, 2025 – 50 Years Later

It is hard to imagine that those 75 individuals who, in 1975 responded to an invitation to investigate forming a



RCVFD Fleet

volunteer fire department, would recognize the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department (RCVFD) 50 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 over its abilities to address the safety and emergency needs in the department's response area continues today.

Because of the initial commitment, for 50 years RCVFD'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 making for a stronger community and fire department. The active involvement and dedication of some individuals have extended for decades.

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

RCVFD remains an organization committed to serving 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 one lives in or visits a wildland urban interface area it is important to 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.

Although the RCVFD's current by-laws define a 51 square mile fire response area nested within a larger 76 square mile medical response region, 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. This makes 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 No.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 (PFA). However, RCVFD provides automatic mutual aid to PFA in these areas. RCVFD Station No.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 No.3 is located approximately .5 mile north of the intersection of Rist Canyon Road and Stove Prairie Road on Rist Canyon 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 No.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 USFS 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.

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



2025 Work Day with Asst. Chief Carol Dollard in the lead.

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 abbreviated 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 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) take extensive online and in-person training, are tested, and participate in continuing education courses to keep up their certifications

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



Volunteer Mia Lauenroth in firefighter gear.



2026 Truck and Ambulance Training: Truck training helps newer responders brush up on their operation skills with hands-on practice and guidance from experienced colleagues. Photos from upper left, Asst. Chief Carol Dollard and Lyle Benson in Truck 433; Jim Terrell and Tim Fecteau inspect the pumps and fittings on Truck 433 while Carol Dollard and Tanner Squibb look on; Chief Medical Officer Karen Steadman (center) reviews medical supplies with Debbie Benson, Lt. Mike Wilkins, Erica Michel, and Darcy Budge. Below, Community Day May 2026



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. Additionally, medical responders also require an ambulance with gurney and other patient transport equipment, AEDs, and all the other medical equipment required to fully outfit an ambulance.

Today the department maintains a 13-vehicle fleet specifically adapted to the terrain and department demands. 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 also must have spare equipment for restocking and repairs after each incident.

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 seen at right. 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 also would also 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.

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. It is available at Weather in Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department Station Number 1 🌤️ (Colorado), United States - Weather Forecast - 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.

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 training 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 No.3 will soon need to be refurbished and enlarged



Larimer County Commissioner Jody Shadduck-McNally presents Chief Mark Neuroth a certificate recognizing the RCVFD 50th Anniversary. Also in photo are Lucy Corro, Bob Gann, Mark McCracken, Commissioner John Kefalas, Jocelyn Wolf.

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 plan 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.

- Information related to mitigation efforts and what can be done to address fire issues generally and in particular instances.
- Public education and efforts to involve community members in a preparing for wildland fire.
- Response planning both for the RCVFD as well as the members of the community.
- Planning for future activities including growth and urban intrusion.
- Hazard preparation for events such as pine beetle infestations.
- 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.

A very special Thank You to Bob Gann, Carol Dollard, Richard Lund, Wes Rutt, and other community members for their invaluable help in preparing this 50-year history of the RCVFD. Compiled by Karen Salaz for the RCVFD.

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



Challenge coin issued in recognition of the 50th anniversary.