



# RISTWATCH

RCVFD Quarterly Newsletter P. O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512 Issue No. 90 April, 2019

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## Letter from the President

A new season is upon us . . . yes, it's officially "Springtime in the Rockies"! Personally, I look forward to the changes of each season; these transitions present an opportunity to both step forward and consider the hopeful possibilities of what each new day may bring, as well as an opportunity to look back and glean what lessons may be learned from our past experiences.

As many of you already know, RCVFD is a non-profit organization, which requires ongoing financial support (via donations, grants, etc.) in order to continue providing services. RCVFD is a vigilant steward of all of its resources: financial, as well as human and capital assets.

The concept of a community supporting its local firefighting/emergency response is far from unusual. In fact, according to the U.S. Fire Administration (an entity of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency):

- There are over 27,222 fire departments (which includes RCVFD) registered within the states and territories of the United States. Of these registered departments, 71% of

them (more than 19,000) are operated completely by volunteers!

We collectively strive to ensure that we maintain our tax-exempt status, in order to avoid the alternative of our community becoming a tax-based district. Should that ever happen, the subsequent impact of the imposed tax liability for every property owner would then increase significantly: a minimum of \$1 for every \$1,000 of property value, or \$300 for a property assessed at \$300,000!

There are over 1,000 properties within the RCVFD Fire District; if each property owner donated only \$100 per year, RCVFD would then easily meet its estimated annual budget requirements. Any additional monies received (additional or outside donations, grants, etc.) could then be added to our reserve funds, which are there to offset any significant, unexpected expenses that may occur (repairs or replacement of vehicles or tactical/technical equipment, etc.).

While not every property owner can donate \$100 per year (some can only do less, while others can do more), any and all efforts to assist RCVFD financially are genuinely and greatly appreciated! Along these lines: if you are already making

**Continued on next page**

## Letter from the President, cont'd.

purchases at King Soopers (or are willing to consider doing so), please consider making RCVFD the “Community Rewards” recipient of your purchases! (More information on the next page ...)

Historically, RCVFD has not always met its budgetary goals; on countless occasions, it has been necessary to request (and receive!) financial contributions from the very volunteers who train and serve us, relentlessly . . . already sacrificing SO much to care for and serve our community!

I encourage each of you to do what you can, to support RCVFD . . . with a donation of your financial resources, if not also a donation of your time and/or personal efforts!

### **In other news . . .**

A well-deserved “thank you” for two of our firefighters, Laurie Franklin and Ashton Croxton, for their leadership in coordinating our annual Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. Laurie has done an outstanding job overseeing this outreach in the past; however, she is unable to do so this year. Ashton has stepped up to “take the reins” and she is ready to run with this year’s outreach!

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is an excellent opportunity for our community members to come together and meet one another, as well as provide awareness, education and resources regarding wildfire preparedness to our community members. At the same time, this event creates an opportunity for our RCVFD to coordinate activities with outside agencies, while potentially obtaining a measure of additional funding.

RCVFD is also currently soliciting proposals for the construction of storage buildings; if you are—or anyone you know is—able to construct such a structure, please contact me at [president@rcvfd.org](mailto:president@rcvfd.org) for further details.

Thanks for being a part of this incredible community!

*With Kind Regards,  
Jeff Vanberry  
RCVFD President*



*Carol, Juana and Ruben with the Animal representing RCVFD at the Jax Homestead Day event.*

## Three Easy Ways to Help the RCVFD



Colorado Gives begins November 1st!

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!

In 2018 we earned \$3,044! Your fire department Thanks You!



### New Rewards Program!

**Great news!** You can now link Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department to your King Soopers rewards card! King Soopers is phasing out the pre-paid cards, so be sure to follow the steps below so RCVFD can earn 5% of all your purchases at King Soopers, at no cost to you! The process only takes a few minutes.

If you don't already have a free King Soopers Rewards Card, visit the service desk and request one. You'll save money whenever you shop at King Soopers. Once that's done, follow the steps below to help RCVFD whenever you shop.

1. Go to the King Soopers [Community Rewards](#) page, logging into your King Soopers account (or create one with your card).
2. Use the "Find an Organization" box to enter our NPO number, **YP687** and click Search.
3. Click "Enroll" and you're done!

Always use your Rewards Card when shopping. RCVFD will receive quarterly payments from King Soopers for 5% of all members' purchases. This is a big source of revenue for us, and helps us cover our yearly budget while saving you money at the same time. If you have any questions about the King Soopers Rewards Program, contact them at 1 (800) 576-4377. And thank you for supporting the RCVFD!



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Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com).

If you have an account, sign in.

Select Rist Canyon VFD as the charity you would like to give to. Use this website for all your Amazon purchases.

In 2018 we earned \$520! If you shop on Amazon, there's no reason not to do it!

# Chief's Report

Hello Friends & Neighbors,

Spring is coming and as usual it is snow one week and 50 degrees the next—which makes a mess of all our roads. Access is always a concern for the RCVFD responders. We had a wildland fire in March (days old slash pile that kicked up in the wind); however, even though it was dry enough for fires to spread, the shadowy parts of the road were an ice sheet, which meant we had to chain up fire trucks. We have 4WD on all our vehicles, but with the heavy loads from the water and all the equipment we carry, they can turn trucks into sleds on icy hills. We will always take the time to chain up if necessary to avoid anyone getting injured, jamming up the road with a disabled vehicle or damaging equipment that would then be of no use to the situation. In bad weather like the “bomb cyclone” in March, we often chain up the truck at the station ahead of the storm. If we do not need them, they are quick to drop off. I mention this because sometimes it can seem like responses take a long time. We are doing our best to get to you, but remember we are all dealing with the same road conditions that you are. (After the bomb cyclone, it was a day before I got my road cleared)

It seems like I always harp on this, but it was a factor in another call recently so I am going to repeat it. Please, please, please make sure we can find you. This means clear road signs and clear address signs at your driveway. Our maps are good, but some of the roads in our area are pretty confusing. Note that you can purchase a reflective address sign from the RCVFD. (Check it out at [rcvfd.org](http://rcvfd.org).)

Since the Ristwatch just comes out every few months, we will be in “fire season” by the time I get to write another letter to the community. As a result, I would like to remind everyone to catch up on those mitigation tasks you have been putting off. There is a lot of detail on our website, [rcvfd.org](http://rcvfd.org), about how to make your house safer if a wildfire were to come. Remember the goal is to mitigate your property

so that if a wildfire were approaching there would be better odds of your house surviving assuming no one is there to defend it. It is typically not safe for you to remain to defend your house, and in a large fire event, our resources will be spread thin.

RCVFD responders have been busy lately. This spring we have been recertifying in CPR/AED. Thanks to Ron Hall-Estand, Medical Officer, for teaching those classes. We have had requests from community members for CPR/AED classes. Ron said he plans to offer those in the fall (when we are less busy with responses). Watch for information on that in future Ristwatch articles, on our website and in the Community Alerts. In addition, we will have our full day wildland refresher and pack test coming up. Thanks to Phil Benstein, Captain, for coordinating those trainings. We also have some new Recruits completing training so they can transition to full responders. Thanks to Jesse Ceplecha, Lieutenant, for coordinating new recruit training. Finally, many thanks to all the volunteers, particularly the officers, who filled in while I was out on medical leave for a while.

While I am handing out thank yous—a big thanks to Lowe's for donating some new tables for the training room. Always appreciate when our local businesses step up to help out the Department. Other local businesses—Jax Farm & Ranch and Dellenbaugh Motors have stepped up by sponsoring a fire truck (which helps to pay the operating expenses of that truck). One additional thank you—the Boy Scouts Troop did an excellent job of landscaping the hill on the south side of Station 1. It looks so much better! Thanks to Jeff Elsner, Assistant Chief, for working on this with them.

Until next time – stay safe and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

*Sincerely, Carol Dollard*

*[chief@rcvfd.org](mailto:chief@rcvfd.org)*



# It's Time to Plant!

## Upcoming Sales & Events

**April 5-7:**  
Perennial Palooza Sale

**April 14:**  
Mini Garden Class

**April 20:**  
Earth Day Tree Sale

**April 27:**  
Spring Open House

**June 12:**  
Rock Garden Concert

**June 16:**  
Father's Day Sale



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# One Bite Really Will Kill You



If people food is readily available, it's just a matter of time before a bear comes exploring. If the bear has a positive experience (getting a food reward) without any negative consequences (being yelled at and chased off), it will try for what its enterprising bear-brain thinks might be an even bigger and better reward.

People tend to ignore these early stages of conflict, hoping the bear will eventually move on, or rationalizing that losing a bag of garbage or the occasional feeder full of bird seed isn't so bad.

But ignoring a bear's activity encourages it not only to continue, but to escalate. The longer people wait to report conflicts and remove attractants, the more likely it is that some bears will push past the limits of tolerance and destroy property or threaten humans. And when agencies have to choose between the safety of people and the lives of bears, people must come first.

This step-by-step experimentation that starts with stumbling across some sort of human-provided food reward and ends with lights out for the bear is what biologists call "the behavioral ladder of progression."

## The Bear Behavioral Ladder of Progression

A step-by-step journey from wary beginning to untimely end

- Smell something interesting. Follow nose to people place. Food smells good, but people

might be dangerous. Wait until dark to explore.

- Gobble up birdseed on ground. Knock down feeder, eat lots more. Run back to the woods.
- Come back a few nights later. Feeder is full again! Chow down. Follow nose onto deck.
- Jackpot! Find garbage by back door. Open, scatter and eat. Score a day's worth of calories. Plan to return often to this new food bonanza. Amble back to the woods.
- Explore the neighborhood. Get much fatter much faster than you could foraging in the woods.
- Start coming during the day since food supply seems endless and humans appear to be harmless.
- Find open garage, knock over refrigerator. Eat pizza and ice cream. Score a week's worth of calories.
- Do enough damage to get reported. Make the news.
- Start approaching people, looking for food. Get trapped, ear-tagged and hauled away.
- Find your way back. Yummy treats still there! Pick up where you left off.
- Scare someone putting out the trash.
- Get labeled a threat to human safety.
- Get killed way before your time.

And that makes room for another bear that smells something interesting.

Reprinted with permission from  
*Linda Masterson,*  
*Living With Bears Handbook (Pixy Jack Press)*  
[livingwithbears.com](http://livingwithbears.com)



# Treasurer's Report

I want to start my treasurer's notes with a Thank You to all our Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department members who support our fire and medical team. The volunteers' commitment, 24/7, is well beyond what we might express with a thank you. The women and men of RCVFD are extraordinary.

Entering a new year means a new budget cycle. In 2019 the estimated expenditures are a little higher than in 2018. One of the items in the Operations budget is a very important personal item, fire shelters. In my January notes I shared the Administration and Operational expenses for 2018. I am sure by now you have received your first annual drive letter, along with the donation envelope. Your donations provide almost 100% of the income needed to operate the fire department.

There are other sources of income that the fire department is involved with, such as Amazon Smile, Benevity, Network for Good, Colorado Gives and King Soopers Community Rewards. All of these programs are set up to help non-profit organizations like RCVFD.

There is one more that is very important to our community, The Rist Canyon Mountain Festival. This fundraiser is not only to raise funds for RCVFD but the festival also brings together our mountain community, working together for a common cause; safety for all.

Below is the Profit and Loss statement for the first quarter of 2019.

*Richard Lund*  
*Treasurer*

## Income

Festival 2019 \$ 500.00  
Annual Drive 3,800.00  
Road Sign Sales 155.00  
Ristwatch 545.00  
Dividends 331.58  
Friends of RCVFD 304.99  
King Sooper 725.48  
Miscellaneous revenue 141.50

Total Income \$6,503.55

## Expenses

### Administration

Festival \$ 600.00  
Annual Drive 1,513.01  
Board of Directors 131.40  
Insurance 7,148.00  
Office Supplies 107.87  
Ristwatch Newsletter 353.41  
Utilities 841.13  
King Sooper Card Purchase 200.00

Total Administration \$10,894.82

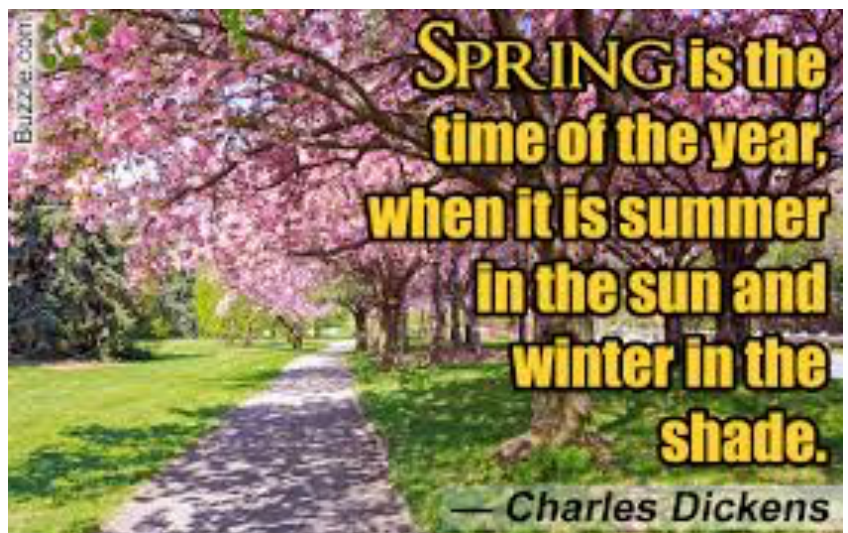
## Operations

Fuel \$ 557.00  
Building Repair 353.97  
Training 349.50  
Communications 86.10  
Equipment Repair 391.90  
Lease Agreement 400.00  
PPE – Fire Shelters 3,086.70  
Volunteer Coordinator 82.00

Total Operations \$5,307.17

Total Expenses 1st Quarter 16,201.99

Net Income 1st Quarter -\$9,698.44



## RCVFD Community News

You can email any RCVFD Board Member, including your area representative, by going to our website, [RCVFD.org](http://RCVFD.org). Click on the "About RCVFD" tab, then click on "Contact RCVFD". Select the name of the person you would like to contact. A form will pop up and you can write your message. Then click "Submit."

Hi folks,

I am the new Rep for Davis Ranch. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you have regarding the fire department or fire safety in our area.

This is the time of the year that residents burn slash. Please be sure to have a burn permit and be in attendance while burning.

*Carolyn Stanley*  
*Davis Ranch Area Rep*

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Not much to report from the upper reaches of the Buckhorn. A lot of mud recently following the big big storm. Our senior resident made it through the winter cuz I saw him moving about on the equinox and only one truck in the creek following the last little dump of snow. Bird friends are returning for the season and some brush and trees are looking a little different. If I can assist with anything RCVFD related please leave a note on the door at mile marker 31 . . . and tell your new neighbors about us.

*Never dream with thy hand on the helm,  
turn not thy back to the compass . . .*  
H. Melville.

*Don Diemer*  
*Upper Buckhorn Area Rep*



## Letter from the Vice President

Dear Neighbors:

Three ways you can help the RCVFD support our community:

1. I hope you enjoy seeing the color photos of firefighters in action that are in the donation request letter you should have received by the time you get this newsletter. The letter talks about how your donation dollars are used. Please donate.
2. The "Friends of the Festival" group has been having monthly gatherings since December to plan and organize the "Mountain Festival" to raise funds for the RCVFD fire department. The Festival will be on Saturday, September 7, 2019. We can use more help with many aspects of the festival, including the silent auction, the bake sale, the book sale, the plant sale, the farm animal displays and corporate sponsorships. For more information, please contact H.J. (HJ@computer.org).
3. The back side of the donation letter explains how very easy it is to set up your name with King Soopers so that they can donate money to RCVFD based on your spending there. There is no cost to shoppers.

We need your help to provide our RCVFD with the medical and firefighting supplies and equipment we use to serve our community. Thanks for your support!

*H. J. Siegel  
RCVFD Board Vice President, and  
RCVFD Firefighter and Emergency Medical Responder*

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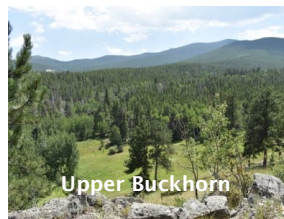
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Ronni Aragon, RSPS, GRI

Norman Wyatt, CNE, Green



55 newly created acres with easy access off Buckhorn Rd. Close to nearby National Forest. Beautiful views, meadows, timber and so much to offer! Non-permitted cabins will be inherited, but lots of potential. Alternative energy required. \$179,000



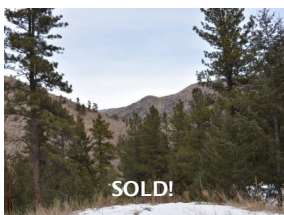
Once in a Lifetime you get the opportunity to create a legacy. This 320 acres almost completed surrounded by National Forest, with Rocky Mountain National Park beyond is it! Meadows, Aspens, Creek, Timber, Trails. Call for details.



Bright, open mountain getaway with a wrap around deck overlooking your private pond! Open floor plan, 2 bed/1 bath on 40 acres with National Forest frontage. 4WD recommended, gated community. Offered at \$385,000.



40 acres with approximately 1600 sq. ft. finished, 2600 total. Abuts National Forest on 2 sides. Behind locked gates, 4WD in winter. Beautiful lot with gorgeous views, meadow, timber, aspens and a deck to enjoy it! Call for further details, offered at \$495,000

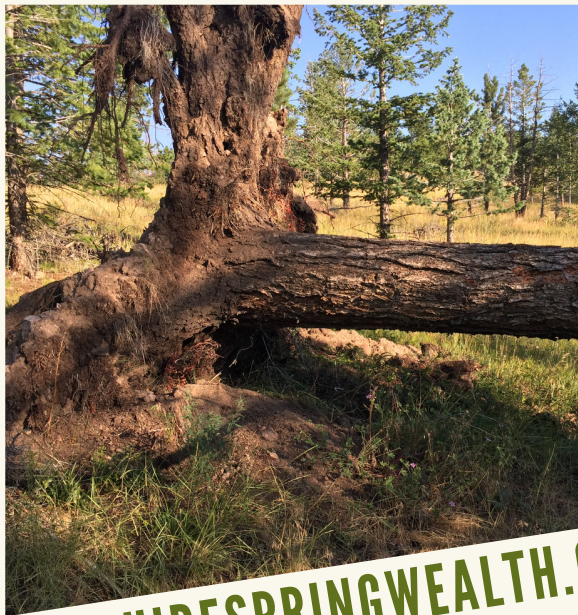


Close to town in secluded mountain setting at the end of the road with National Forest frontage, lots of local wildlife, driveway in with excavated building site and electric close by. Use for recreation or year round home! 10.7 acres, call for details.



Pond & stream in Paradise Park on 40 acres with private National Forest access. Located behind locked gates, offering great views of the Buckhorn Valley to the South. Effects of the High Park Fire, but affordably priced at \$199,000.

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As a fellow neighbor of yours, I'd like you to know that our financial plans show our clients how much of their retirement assets are "above ground" (subject to winds of risk), versus how much are "below ground" (protected). We help protect assets and income from taxation through GuideSpring Wealth's Triple Tax Protected® Strategies.

***The Rist Canyon Fire Department runs efficiently on your donations, not tax dollars. Donate today to keep us free of taxation!***

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## Elk Avoid Beetle-killed Forest Areas

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING — Loss of the heat-shielding forest canopy and the obstacle of fallen trees have caused elk to avoid beetle-killed areas of the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, according to new research by University of Wyoming scientists.

Those factors more than offset the gains in nutritious grasses and other vegetation desired by elk that have resulted from the region's bark beetle epidemic, says the research led by recent UW master's degree graduate Bryan Lamont and supervised by UW Professors Kevin Monteith and Matt Kauffman of the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. As with many wildlife studies in Wyoming, this was a collaborative effort between university researchers and biologists with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, who are charged with managing the elk herd amid the massive forest disturbance.

"Although it is common following forest disturbances for elk to seek out and capitalize on the resulting increases in highly palatable and nutritious forage, during the summer months, elk in our study area fairly consistently

avoided beetle-kill," Lamont says. "This result is somewhat counter to how we typically think elk respond to forest disturbances. It appears there are some subtle but real differences between disturbances such as forest fires and the bark beetle epidemic."



The research, published in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, suggests that removal of standing dead trees and downed logs in the beetle-killed forests of the Sierra Madre Mountains might benefit the area's population of 6,500-8,500 elk. As it is, the bark beetle epidemic "has altered how elk use the landscape and has resulted in a potential loss of forest habitat that elk use during the day," the scientists wrote.

The research involved collaring and GPS tracking of 71 female elk between 2012-16 in the Sierra Madres, where thousands of acres of lodgepole pine trees have been killed by bark beetles in the past two decades. The beetle epidemic there peaked around 2009, so the study period took place when trees were just beginning to fall.

*Continued on next page*

### Please help us help you!



Response time can be delayed when your home does not have address numbers clearly posted. Please take the time to post numbers where your driveway takes off from the named road, and a second set on your house. RCVFD offers nice reflective signs, and they're only \$15! Order yours by calling Louise Creager at (970) 217-6843. We cannot help you if we cannot find you.....

### RCVFD Monthly Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 7 PM  
at Firehouse #1 on Rist Canyon Road

Operations — 1st Wednesdays  
Fire Training — 2nd Wednesdays  
Board Meeting — 3rd Wednesdays  
Medical Training — 4th Wednesdays



## Beetle-killed Forests, cont'd.

The researchers found that, while previous studies showed elk often move into areas disturbed by fires or timber harvest to take advantage of new plant growth, that isn't happening in the Sierra Madres. In fact, the elk strongly avoid beetle-killed areas in the summer. That's likely because elk must expend significant amounts of energy to walk over downed logs and cool themselves in the beetle-killed areas.

"Ultimately, this means that if elk are avoiding beetle-killed areas, this translates to much less forest habitat that elk typically would utilize during the summer," Lamont says. The findings provide valuable insights for wildlife and land managers across the West, who face challenges from the bark beetle epidemic "that have not been encountered in modern wildlife management," the paper says.

"Treating beetle-killed areas with excessive standing dead and downed trees through prescribed fire or other removal techniques may be effective at reducing the negative costs to elk from beetle-killed forests; provide elk with the adequate mixture of foraging areas and hiding and thermal cover, and potentially decrease conflicts caused by redistribution," the scientists concluded.

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the Tree Farmer Alert*

*Contributed by Steve Goodroad, Tree Farmer  
March 10, 2019*



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# THANK YOU

Volunteers of the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department



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*Noreen*



*L.J.*



*Jen*

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**Mark Your Calendar! WCPD is May 4th at Station One**

**WILDFIRE COMMUNITY  
PREPAREDNESS DAY**

**MAY 4, 2019**

**7:30-12:00: MITIGATION WORK 12:00-2:00: BBQ**

Come join the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. I am proud to say, that your votes have helped RCVFD receive a \$500 grant that will help the department staff, supply, and prepare for emergencies within our community. This year we will be celebrating our achievement by giving back to one of our community members in need. Join us at Station 1 at 7:30am on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and get the opportunity to work alongside firefighters to help a neighbor fulfill their wildfire mitigation needs. At noon we will be heading back to Station 1 for a fun-filled afternoon of tips, tricks and trades for successful wildfire property management and conservation, and information from some of Rist Canyon's most influential community members. There will be BBQ, tours of the station and trucks, and games for the kids. Fun for the whole family!

If you want to volunteer to be involved in either the mitigation work, or work back at the station, we have plenty of slots to fill. Please contact Ashton at [croxton.ashton@yahoo.com](mailto:croxton.ashton@yahoo.com), and she will forward you the necessary information and a sign-up genius for a list of ways that you can help. Volunteers are always welcome but never expected. If you cannot make it on the day of the event but want a way to help support the department, you can always make a donation on the RCVFD website: <https://www.rcvfd.org/>.



**Hope to see you there!**

**Thank You RCVFD**

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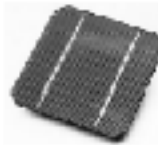
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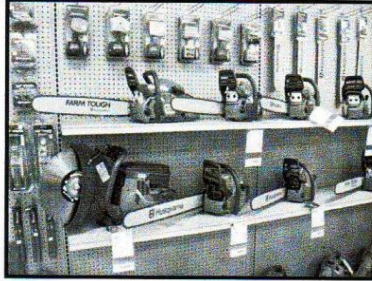
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