



RINCON VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT
2019 - 2020

PREPARE - PREVENT - PROTECT

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www.rinconvalleyfd.org

14550 E. SANDS RANCH ROAD

VAIL, AZ 85641

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Vision

Vail will be a safe place.

Mission

Prepare, Prevent, and Protect
our Community from Harm.

Values

Our values define how we interact with each other. They influence how we conduct ourselves and conduct business of the District each day. We strive to keep our values in mind with everything we do. These values shall be used to drive our policies, decisions, and actions based on what is equitable for all of our stakeholders.

Rincon Valley Fire District members are:

Responsible

We hold ourselves and each other accountable. We seek self-improvement to better serve our customers. We care for people, internally and externally, to the best of our abilities and with professionalism. We conduct ourselves ethically with honor and pride.

Versatile

We deliver the highest level of service by using our resources wisely. We adapt and overcome. We are resilient. We are dynamic to ensure we are prepared for the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Fair

Because people are our greatest resource, we create opportunities for all members to succeed. We develop healthy and productive work relationships to accomplish our mission. We respect the contributions of all members. We understand that we are better because of our diverse backgrounds.

Dedicated

We commit ourselves for the betterment of the District and our members. We will make sacrifices that provide for the health and safety of our community. We uphold our oath each day.



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

Annual Report 2019-2020

To our valued residents, personnel, board members, and all who make up our community, we proudly celebrate with you as we usher in our 35th anniversary year. It's been an incredible journey to grow from a 12-person volunteer fire station into the professional ISO Class 2 agency we are today.

First and foremost, Rincon Valley Fire District continues its mission of serving the residents of greater Vail and upholding the core values of our organization: responsible, versatile, fair, and dedicated.

I wish I could report a quiet year with business as usual and a summary of the traditional operations of our fire and medical services. As you know, 2020 has been anything but! We witnessed a global Coronavirus pandemic, unprecedented in our times, with a far reaching impact. This is especially true for our firefighters, who bravely found themselves on the frontlines and worked diligently to mitigate the spread. We enacted countless measures and protocols and observed regional and national guidelines to help us stay safe.

I am very proud of the men and women that serve the community in all areas of the Rincon Valley Fire District. They are all skilled professionals who are pushed to their physical, mental, and emotional limits on a daily basis. Passion for serving and a commitment to our mission are what we do. This is what our community expects and it is why we strive to earn the respect and support of the residents we serve. I sincerely believe the fiscal year 2019 - 2020 report will make you proud to live and work in the Rincon Valley Fire District. In closing, I want to reiterate how proud I am of the work conducted by the members of our District and to share with you their commitment to serve. I hope their commitment to our mission and values provides you with the same pride and satisfaction I enjoy each day as their Fire Chief. I invite you to review this report and share in the pride of our accomplishments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JK", on a white background.

Jayme Kahle, Fire Chief



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



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The District

Rincon Valley Fire District was formed in 1985 by residents of the southeast metropolitan Tucson area. The District currently provides emergency and community services to 14,000 residents over a 42 square mile area. In addition, the District provides ambulance services to an additional 13,000 residents over an additional 225 square miles. Rincon Valley Fire District is a local governmental entity and is supported by its local taxpayers. Rincon Valley Fire District provides a wide range of dedicated services to its residential and commercial property owners. In addition to fire protection, paramedic staffed units are located within the District for advanced life support during medical calls to provide prompt and efficient transportation to the hospital. The District operates two stations with 47 employees that provide fire and emergency medical services, administration, fleet services, facility services, fire prevention and code enforcement. Fire District funding in Arizona is derived from secondary property tax, a portion of the personal property tax and fees for services. The tax rate remained the same \$2.7834 with a bond rate of \$0.3716 for a total combined tax rate of \$3.1550. The FY 2020/2021 total budget is \$5,382,200.

Fire District Board

2020 Fire Board

CHAIRPERSON: MICHELLE HARRINGTON

CLERK: MARK TATE

MEMBER: KEVIN McKINLEY

MEMBER: JENNIFER SPEARS

MEMBER: CHRISTOPHER KLASSEN

A five-member Board whose members are elected to their offices in an at-large election governs the Fire District. The Board Members serve staggered terms of four years. The Rincon Valley Fire District Board conducts public meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM, in the RVFD community room at 14550 E. Sands Ranch Road. The public is encouraged to attend.

Pension Board

Laura Bucklin, Secretary

Mark Tate, Chairperson

Jack Sharma, District Resident Member

Jeremy Curtis, District Resident Member

Cameron McQuillen, Employee Member

Richard Reed, Employee Member



Community Driven Partnership

Rincon Valley Fire District understands the importance of community, that's why we are committed to maintaining strong partnerships with our stakeholders, even during the pandemic. In 2019-2020, we re-launched our social media to keep the residents of Vail informed on our activities as well as public safety priorities, such as precautions related to COVID-19. Our public information campaign allowed us to connect with residents while making additional information available through the web and maintaining our social distancing measures,.

Our network of partners is one of our greatest assets. We work closely with the Vail School District, the Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce, the Vail Voice, Colossal Fourth Committee, Vail Preservation Society, Homeowners Associations, Pima County, Pima Fire Chiefs, and the Vail Firefighters Association Local 5100, among others, to promote and participate in a wide variety of community programs. In 2020, we launched a new partnership with the City of Tucson Fire Department, announcing a dual dispatch zone along the I-10 Interstate during ongoing bridgework. RVFD wild-land personnel continued their deployments to incidents around the state as part of our ongoing commitment to aid and assist state and federal agencies with wildfire response efforts.

We deeply value these partnerships and the role they play in helping us promote public safety. Through the pandemic, we have continued proactively engaging with our community partners through web and phone-based conference. We are enormously grateful for the outpouring of community support we received as folks took time to recognize first responders for being on the frontlines of the Coronavirus. Like everyone, we learned new and innovative ways to collaborate and stay connected.

RVFD Members play the most important role in our community. Their jobs never stop. The pandemic has not impeded routine safety checks, such as smoke alarms, car seats, and other prevention efforts such as building and hydrant inspections, along with fire suppression and emergency medical services. As always, the health and wellbeing of our residents is our top priority.

In keeping with the goals set forth in our strategic plan, we established a formal Community Relations Program in 2020, which aims to further enhance our commitment to community. We look forward to the steps to come in our enhanced community focus.



Five New Probationary Firefighters

FF EMT Eric Pettersen



FF EMT Danny Gonzales



FF Paramedic Steven Rodriguez



FF Paramedic Bruce Conley



FF Paramedic Marlon Posada



Two New Administration Employees

Administrative Assistant Robin Braun



Community Relations Manager Fiona De Young



Employee Recognition Continued

Successfully Completed Probation

FF EMT Chris Heady



FF EMT Scott O'Halloran



FF Paramedic David Adams



FF Paramedic Will Barber



FF EMT Billy Rivas



5 Years of Service

FF EMT Wayne Davies



FF Paramedic Matt Kappes



Employee Recognition Continued

15 Years of Service

Captain Asa Pallette



Captain Scott Laird



20 Years of Service

Engineer Clint Bell



Promotions

Paramedic Mike Cassabaum Promoted to Captain



Captain Jim Tucker Promoted to Battalion Chief



Employee Recognition

Fire Inspector 1

Firefighter Kenneth Quinn



International Critical Incident Stress Foundation

Paramedic Justin Zollner

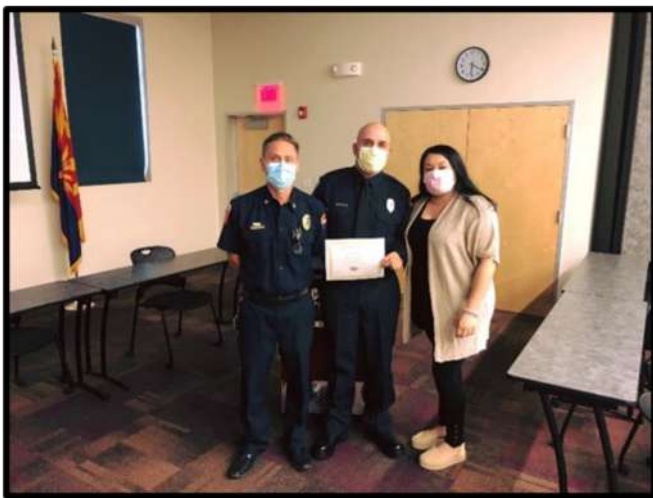


Code Saves

This spring, at a meeting of the District Board, RVFD recognized two employees for saving the life of a Tucson man.

The elderly man was seen by neighbors as he collapsed outside his home in eastern Tucson in March. He was experiencing a heart attack. Paramedic Marlon Posada and EMT Wayne Davies responded to the home and immediately began administering CPR. Using a lifesaving defibrillator, they successfully restarted his heart rhythm and circulation. The patient was able to make a full recovery.

The Code Save was commemorated at the monthly board meeting. The ceremony also marked the beginning of our honors program and challenge coin, which recognizes personnel for their outstanding service.



Fire Chief Jayme Kahle with Firefighter Paramedic Marlon Posada and Karla Posada



Fire Chief Jayme Kahle with Firefighter EMT Wayne Davies



Challenge Coin for Outstanding Service

- ⇒ ISO (Insurance Services Office) Class 2 Promotion. This is an improvement over the previous Class 3 designation and puts RVFD in the top 4 percent of all US fire departments.
- ⇒ In July 2019, Rincon Valley Fire District published the first Community Risk Assessment–Standards of Cover (CRASOC) document.
- ⇒ Training and education are essential for maintaining and improving critical firefighting, rescue and medical skills. Training provides an opportunity to update members on new regulations and industry “best practices.” The average number of training hours per firefighter per month was 25. The total training hours logged District wide was 12,592. This year firefighters were able to attend live flash-over training at the Public Safety Academy.
- ⇒ Firefighter Alex Anduaga led RVFD into a new partnership with Vail School District to be part of their Student Internship Program.
- ⇒ The District contracted with the National Fire Operations Reporting System (NFORS). The system provides instant quality data that will help improve our service delivery.
- ⇒ Firefighters gained access to the NFORS exposure tracking app. Every firefighter now has access to use the exposure tracker which serves as a personal database providing a detailed history of work exposures.
- ⇒ Implemented CrewSense to streamline scheduling and payroll.
- ⇒ We transitioned to Southern Arizona Fire EMS Regional Consortium (SAFER-C) for dispatching services. Aside from enhanced dispatching capabilities, the G2 app became available providing dispatch information directly to a mobile device.
- ⇒ The Wildland Division was busy during FY 19/20. Our Type 3 engine deployed on two out of district assignments in California and one of our ambulances was deployed to central Arizona.
- ⇒ The 2020 - 2024 Strategic Plan was published and all scheduled objectives were completed.
- ⇒ As part of our continued partnership with Northwest Fire District, Paramedic Matt Kappes completed a project to improve our fire hydrant testing and inspection program. Inspection information is now documented through ArcGIS on-line.
- ⇒ We accepted 150 single owner annexations into our Fire District.
- ⇒ We received a grant from The Gary Sinise towards the purchase of equipment to decontaminate and disinfect between patients.
- ⇒ We participated in the University of Arizona Serology testing program to track COVID exposures among personnel.
- ⇒ The District, for the first time, received a Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grant. Three new firefighters were hired in November.
- ⇒ We received cancer blocking hoods from the 100 Club thanks to BC Cornejo.
- ⇒ We hired our first community relations manager, Fiona de Young, to improve safety, inform the public, and increase annexations. We launched Community Relations Program to connect with residents, the media, and stakeholders.
- ⇒ A dual dispatch zone with Tucson Fire Department was enacted to ensure speedy response during the ongoing bridge work along I-10. This historic partnership represents an early step towards other potential future agreements.
- ⇒ Received a grant from the Health and Human Services Administration towards the purchase of essential protective equipment as well as other reimbursements for COVID-19 related expenses.
- ⇒ Our car seat program performed over 20 inspections.
- ⇒ We celebrated our 35th year anniversary.

The Year in Review



Rincon Valley Fire District Incident Volume

	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	Increase
Fire	45	52	16%
EMS	1274	1219	-4%
Hazard	55	36	-35%
Service	687	615	-10%
Good Intent	203	219	8%
False Alarm	57	56	-2%
Special	8	1	-88%
Totals	2329	2198	-6%

