



SUMMER IS UPON US !!!!



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Important Updates

****The burn ban remains in effect for the Brazos Canyon Fire District.**

-There are three above-ground water tanks located in the Ponderosa subdivision. We have been filling these tanks. Two of the tanks are currently full, each holding 15,000 gallons. The third tank, which requires repairs at the top, contains approximately 15,000 gallons but has a capacity of 20,000 gallons.

-We have responded to several fire calls and in collaboration with State Forestry, we have successfully extinguished these fires. Herman Candelaria and his crew have been helpful in locating lightning strikes and establishing firelines during the late-night hours.

-The Community Appreciation Dinner on July 18th was a success, with gratitude extended to all attendees. Educational booths hosted by firefighters covered topics: wood-burning stove safety and fire shelters. Attendees could feel the shelter material and also climb in one. We provided short informational videos. BCFVD's certified sawyers shared tree felling insights. Many attendees were surprised by the weight of our large chainsaws. Firewise group provided mitigation information with Smokey Bear making a memorable appearance. State Forestry representatives engaged with the community, and Fishtail Ranch catered the delicious meal sponsored by BCFVD. Ron Alcorn provided tours of the Brazos Canyon Ponderosa Station prior to the festivities at Michael J. Hays station.

-Additionally, the New Mexico Gas Company participated in the event. We are pleased to announce that the Brazos Canyon VFD submitted a grant proposal and was awarded \$50,000 from the Helping Heroes Grant funded by New Mexico Gas Co. This generous



grant will be used to acquire much-needed handheld and truck radios from Advanced Communications of Albuquerque.

Station Improvements

-Physical upgrades are essential at Ponderosa Station. We are looking for a painter to assist with the interior painting of the station as well as the last remaining Ponderosa water tank. If you are a painter, please reach out to BCVFD for more information.

-In September 2026, the district will undergo an Insurance Services Office inspection which evaluates the funding a fire district can receive from the state. This inspection involves a comprehensive checklist including the requirement to produce a five-minute video showcasing our team in action while completing a designated task.

Recruitment Efforts

Our fire district was redistricted from 38 to 52 square miles. BCVFD is entirely volunteer-based and we welcome individuals to support the department's various roles. In addition to first responders, we need truck drivers, pump operators, office staff, skilled individuals in mechanical maintenance, and building upkeep. Your involvement offers a unique and valued chance to serve the community

Applications may be filled out and submitted directly to the county for a background check. You may also hand your application to any BCVFD firefighter. You can find the application link here: [Firefighter Application](#)

Training Highlights

Over this past year we have participated in a variety of training programs including live propane fire exercises, structure fire training involving climbing ladders to access windows, breaching metal doors, navigating smoke-filled rooms with self-contained breathing apparatuses, drafting from lakes, ponds, and rivers as well as various wildland fire training. The dedicated firefighters serving Brazos Canyon fire district work hard and train monthly. Please take a moment to thank them when you see them. Even as volunteers we strive toward achieving Firefighter I and Firefighter II certifications.



Firewise USA®

As you may know, Firewise USA® collaborates with the fire department. We are currently gearing up for chipping work within the fire district which started in June. You can find more details at [Brazos Canyon VFD website](#) and also [Brazos Firewise website](#)

Final Mitigation Event for Property Owners

- **Date:** August 16, 2026
- **Location:** Rio Chama Estates, Cañones, Ponderosa, Hwy 84 residents
- **Details:** All property owners in the Brazos Canyon Fire district are encouraged to participate. Please visit the [Brazos Firewise website](#) to register.



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DID YOU KNOW?

When a BCVFD sawyer prepares for action, they carry an impressive 62.8 pounds of wildland gear and equipment as if it's just another day on the job!

While you may not hear about it, your BCVFD frequently responds to medical assist calls, missing persons, wildlife rescues and of course area fires. In 2026 thus far: 9 various fire calls that were identified and successfully mitigated by your volunteers. Thirteen medical assists, one search and rescue, and a handful of wildlife rescues.



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HOT TOPICS

Your Fire Department spends a lot of time volunteering for the safety and benefit of our community, please consider donating by using the QR code below.



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CALENDAR & UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
August 16	Chipping event. Volunteers needed to assist BCFD.
August 6-9	<i>Chama Days, Chama, NM</i>
Fundraising Campaign	<i>Fundraising campaign for 2026 is underway. There are many ways to donate: Checks made out to BCFD, Mailing address: HC 75, Box 92, Chama, NM 87520 Credit Cards, debit cards, or Checking transfer via convenient QR Code. Thank you for your support.</i>

Brazos Canyon Volunteer Fire Department — Serving Our Community with Pride

Questions or submissions? Contact us at: BrazosVFD@rio-arriba.org 575-588-0014



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