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—Contributor.....Robert F. Smith  
—Contributor email.....robfs52@yahoo.com  
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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Fire Department gets equipment upgrades

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3 TEXT BODY:

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4 The newly consolidated Rockingham Fire and Rescue  
5 Department (RFRD) is moving ahead with new equipment and  
6 other efforts to help ensure its ability to provide services to the  
7 entire town.

8 To that end, in February, the RFRD acquired a new utility  
9 terrain vehicle (UTV) — and a trailer to transport it — to help in  
10 off-road fire and rescue operations.

11 The department also has a Rockingham Community Risk  
12 Reduction program to help residents make sure that their homes  
13 are easily identifiable in emergencies.

14 The department's Firefighters Association (FFA), which  
15 includes all the active members of the consolidated departments,  
16 raises money each year, particularly through sponsoring a Santa's  
17 Express event. This holiday-themed train ride for families takes  
18 place during the fall holiday season with Santa Claus and other  
19 characters along for the ride.

20 The FFA uses the money raised from the event to  
21 enhance safety in the community. Last year, the funds were used  
22 to purchase automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and  
23 distribute them to strategic spots around the town for use during  
24 cardiac emergencies.

25 Proceeds from this past holiday's fundraiser will be used  
26 to help as many as 60 families acquire reflective address numbers  
27 that can be displayed on their homes, mailboxes, or other spots  
28 to help quickly identify the property in an emergency.

29 Anyone can visit [rockbf.org](http://rockbf.org) or the [RFRD Facebook page](#)  
30 for more information or to order reflective E911 address signs.  
31 The cost for the first 60 or so orders will be covered by the FFA.  
32 The signs are \$12.95 for a one-sided sign or \$14.95 for a two-  
33 sided.

34 "Especially now that we have one department covering  
35 the whole town, this will be very helpful for people to mark their  
36 home or garage" said Firefighter Wade Masure, who is organizing  
37 the program. "Anything that can speed up the process of  
38 identifying the correct address in an emergency is important."

39 There are also some duplicate street and road names in  
40 different parts of the town — for instance, there are two Oak  
41 Streets — and anything that speeds up accurate identification in  
42 an emergency is helpful.

43 Masure said that the FFA also purchased a new Can-Am  
44 UTV, which he said is "handy to have in rural areas."

45 Now that the RFRD is responding to fires and  
46 emergencies throughout the town, including its rural areas,  
47 having a UTV for off-road rescue is important.

48 The RFRD UTV is equipped to carry someone on a  
49 stretcher out of a wilderness or off-road area. The UTV and trailer  
50 cost around \$29,000 and was donated to the town.

51 The former Rockingham Volunteer Fire Department had a  
52 UTV and trailer that had been used for this purpose. But that  
53 department operated independently of the town, and that UTV  
54 was not passed on to the RFRD when the three fire departments  
55 were consolidated last year.

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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