

Berkshire Trail Riders help rural fire departments buy rescue equipment



Mark Placek, right, of the nonprofit Berkshire Trail Riders Association, presents a check to Granville Fire Chief David Gray, center, as Deputy Chief Wesley Bauer looks on. *(Berkshire Trail Riders Association)*

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GRANVILLE — The Berkshire Trail Riders Association recently awarded grants to rural fire departments to help them purchase rescue gear.

The nonprofit BTR awarded a total of \$5,000 to fire departments in the towns of Granville, Blandford and Tolland in Hampden County, Sandisfield in Berkshire County and **Pine Meadow** in Litchfield County. Pine Meadow is the historic section of **New Hartford**, Connecticut.

The grants range from \$600 to \$1000 and will be used to buy safety harnesses, response bags, off-road extraction equipment and other emergency rescue equipment for firefighters. Over the years, BTR has donated more than \$50,000 to charitable and nonprofit organizations.

BTR promotes responsible off-road riding, sanctioned competition and local philanthropy, according to the group's [Facebook page](#). Members maintain the trails they ride, actively promoting preservation through trail work parties several times a year, while working alongside various local, state and federal agencies.

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