

We need each other, now, more than ever. Giving is one important way to help to bring community members together during these uncertain times and allowing our resilience to shine brilliantly. As we all face quarantine orders during the COVID-19 pandemic, a quick rummage of supplies has led to a major giving effort from one local fire safe council.

Feeling ambitious, but confronted with volunteer based fire prevention activities compressed due to the pandemic, the Pine Valley Fire Safe Council (PVFSC) managed its idleness by conducting an inventory of its fire prevention supplies. PVFSC identified a collection of N95 masks that were intermixed with their chipping program supplies. Upon their discovery, there was a brief discussion about who could best benefit from the masks and where donations were being accepted?

They quickly found out that all the hospitals have a donation box outside for PPE supplies.

“Before our donation could be delivered, I checked in with my neighbor who is a nurse at Urgent Care to see how she was doing, said Mary Rajknecht of PVFSC. "She told me she had been using the same N95 mask for nearly THREE weeks! Although they are being issued a new mask each day, they are not the higher quality N95's, as these have not been available, Mary added.

“After hearing this, I checked with our fsc President Dick Dupree, and we decided to donate our N95's to the Urgent Care nurse for use at her facility, Mary said.

The N95's were delivered Thursday to a very appreciative nurse and are now in use by a very thankful nursing staff.

Many of you have emergency preparedness storage either in a fire safe council trailer or at your community center. Now is the best time to inventory and check what could be donated to best serve your community. Masks and gloves are a focus right now, either the dust or workshop type or medical grade N95 level masks and/or nitrile gloves used by our first responders. Ask someone to take a look and find out what you might be able to donate to those brave enough to stand on the front lines.



Pictured: nursing staff recipients of N95 masks donated by Pine Valley fsc