



A Day in the Life of a Groveland Firefighter  
06/2007 by Fire Chief Shane Warner

You would expect the Groveland Fire Department to respond to structure fire calls. But did you know that they also respond to wildland fires, vehicle fires and accidents including extrications, medical aids, rescues and public service assists?

Last year 55% of the Fire Department's 510 calls were for medical aids. All full-time Fire Department personnel are also EMT's (Emergency Medical Technicians) that can provide basic life support, which is good to have around in a medical emergency, especially if the ambulance is off the hill. When there is a medical emergency, the ambulance and Fire Department respond and are trained to work together to help assure a successful medical outcome.

The fire station is open 24 hours, 7 days a week, working three shifts with, at the very least, an engineer and a firefighter on duty at all times. (Log on to [www.grovelandfire.com](http://www.grovelandfire.com) for more statistics on the Groveland Fire Department.)

Groveland Fire Department personnel don't just hang around the station waiting for 911 calls. There is station maintenance, pre-fire planning with local businesses, daily and weekly apparatus and equipment checks, fire prevention activities, assisting with the fire cadet program and a minimum of two hours of training per shift. Of course, a call for assistance is given priority and is the reason emergency personnel are ready at all times. But our firefighters are also on a tight daily schedule.

They wake-up at 6:00am to be prepared for the shift change of the engineer and firefighter at 7:00. After a quick breakfast, they do daily and more comprehensive weekly engine checks and station maintenance. From 10:00 until the noon lunch break, daily shift training is scheduled. From 13:00 to 16:00, firefighters are required to do special projects, computer work and report writing. This is followed by an hour of physical training before dinner. This daily training is crucial for firefighters who must be ready to assist the public in physically demanding ways like climbing up ladders and onto roofs, carrying the injured and dragging hose into and around a fire.

But their work is still not done. After dinner the firehouse is cleaned to be ready for the next shift. Typically, the scheduled work day ends around 17:00 but often there are still reports to write and entries in the log book to complete during the evening hours. With 49% of the emergency calls, so far this year, coming in after regular business hours often the evenings and early mornings are used assisting the public.

If you have any questions about what we do at the fire station, please feel free to stop by. My door is always open.