

Groveland Fire Department Reserve Firefighter Rich Walker

April 2008



This month Rich Walker, a Reserve Firefighter with the Groveland Fire Department has been chosen as our Featured Firefighter of the month.

Reserve firefighters fill an important role in the Groveland Fire Department. They provide a third, highly qualified, part time firefighter on each shift. Reserve firefighters make it possible to stay within the budget while maintaining the high level of service attributed to the Groveland Fire Department.

When asked why he chose to become a reserve firefighter Rich Walker answered immediately: “To help people” and that is exactly what he does.

Walker’s desire to help others began at a young age. While he was still in high school he joined the firefighter cadet program and graduated with a First Responder and a Firefighter 1 certification. Later he earned his Firefighter 2 certification, completed Basic and Advanced Wildland Fire Academy Training and became an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician).

Looking back at Walker’s work experience, it is evident that helping people is not something new to him. He has worked extensively with the Forest Service and local fire fighting agencies filling positions such as service aid, service technician, senior firefighter, squad boss, incident commander type 5, and engine operator. Walker has also served as a Helicopter rappeller and a Groveland Hot Shot at the Buck Meadow Station. As a Hot Shot he was sent all around the country to fight fires. Walker has achieved an extensive resume built upon helping others.

Currently, Walker works full time as an HVAC Technician at BACA Heating and Air Conditioning. He has also gained a wide variety of skills in construction, electrical, general maintenance, engine repair and cabinet making. More than once these skills have been useful in the repair and maintenance jobs that are a necessary part of running a fire station.

If you talk with his fellow firefighters Walker is known as someone who: “goes above and beyond the normal job duties to get the job done.” Walker’s dedication to helping others is a perfect match for his role as one of the Reserve Firefighters of the Groveland Fire Department.