

Sept. 2010 Special Projects

Groveland Fire Department (GFD) personnel have a myriad of regular duties and routine maintenance that is performed on a daily basis. They start their day with a strenuous physical fitness program, followed by engine checks and inspections, and mandated training. There are also special projects that may not be identified in their job description but are the responsibility of the fire department and are chosen by or assigned to each firefighter.



Business Inspections: Each shift is responsible for a third of the downtown business inspections in Groveland, Big Oak Flat, and the surrounding areas. This is done by the on duty engine crew using an inspection form that was developed by the department using the 2007 Fire Code. This inspection form not only aids the firefighters but also shows business owners that by law the fire department has an obligation to bring safety concerns to their attention. The landowner/business owner is given one part of this triplicate form so they can correct found safety issues and reduce the likelihood of a fire or emergency. Another copy is sent to the Tuolumne County Fire Marshal and the other is placed in a GFD file. Landowner/business owners are given time to correct violations before a second inspection is scheduled.

In addition to checking for safety issues, firefighters note where all of the utility shut offs are located, what type of building construction was used, where the nearest water supply is located, what type of roof construction is on the building, the floor plan, any hazardous conditions, and any exposures that could potentially be affected during a fire type condition.



Other Inspections: GFD also helps Tuolumne County Fire Prevention and CAL Fire with inspections both within the District and areas outside the District. These inspections include the 4291 CAL Fire inspections and commercial and residential inspections with the County. We team up to teach local students fire safety beginning at an early age and speak at local group meetings about fire prevention issues.

CPR Classes: Another area where the GFD contributes to the community is the CPR and First Aid classes we teach to local individuals, groups and businesses. We have taught twenty of these classes since the beginning of 2010. We have three instructors within the department Shane Warner, Jim Burdick, and Josh Scheib, who is the lead instructor. In recent years, Josh has taught all of the classes with the assistance of the on duty staff. It is important to train the public to save a life.



Hydrant Painting: The GFD is helping the GCSD Water Department with hydrant inspections and painting as a general annual maintenance. If you drive around PML, notice the newly painted hydrants. The tops are color-coded based on the output in gallons per minute. This coding tells the fire engineers at a glance how many gallons per minute are available from each hydrant. The blue tops are 1500 gpm, the green 1000-1499 gpm, orange 500-999 gpm, and red indicates anything below 500 gpm. This is extremely critical information for the fire engineer during a structure fire.

These are just a few of the special projects GFD personnel devote their time to in an effort to provide the best possible service to area residents.