



The Tuolumne County Joint Basic Fire Academy begins January 2009

The Groveland Fire Department is seeking community-spirited volunteer firefighters 18-55 years old. The Joint Basic Fire Academy course is designed for new firefighters. Curriculum focuses on first responder EMS, basic firefighting skills, firefighter safety, basic incident management systems, hazmat first responder operations, confined space rescue awareness and manipulative skills. Successful completion of written exams and manipulative performance exams are required for graduation.

The Groveland Fire Department will be hosting this session of the Joint Basic Fire Academy that provides training for all of the Fire Protection Districts, the City of Sonora, and the Tuolumne County Fire Department. This training is a unified effort to provide a universal source of knowledge and experience with a wide variety of skilled instructors for new volunteer firefighters in Tuolumne County.

Currently, the Groveland Fire Department is a combination of career staff and volunteers. Without our hard-working volunteers we could not provide the high level of service attributed to our department. Volunteers are paid for in-district and out-of-district calls and training. Volunteers respond to medical aid calls, vehicle accidents and fires, structure fires, vegetation fires, and all other types of fires. Annual call volume has increased from 209 calls for service in 1999 to 602 calls in 2007.

The Department offers ongoing training with two monthly trainings for its volunteers throughout the year. Volunteers are also invited to attend daily training with the full-time staff. Volunteers are also offered outside training through the State Fire Marshall that is paid for by the fire department.

The Groveland Fire Department covers 14.7 squares miles including Groveland, Pine Mountain Lake, and Big Oak Flat. The Department also provides support and mutual aid to Tuolumne County Fire Department, the California Department of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service.

If volunteering is something you would like to know more about, visit our website at <http://www.grovelandfire.com> (click Getting Involved), or come by the Fire Station at 18930 Highway 120, or email the Fire Chief (swarner@gcsd.org).