

## TOWER OPERATIONS

Due to the air restrictions in and around Moody Air Force Base, the Lowndes County Unit keeps the fire tower staffed daily by 1000 am, weather permitting, and is a vital link for ground crews on wildfires. The air patrol pattern that is flown by GFC aircraft is greatly reduced due to the restricted area in and around Moody Air Force Base so we rely heavily on the Echols and Lowndes County towers to pick up smoke in these areas.

## MAINTENANCE

The GFC realizes that in order for equipment to be ready to respond to an emergency, whether it is a fire or natural disaster, it must be constantly maintained correctly and in an efficient manner. Most all of the repairs that are needed can be handled at our local County units, which is due to the dedication and professional knowledge of the local unit personnel in Echols, Lanier and Lowndes Counties. On staff in E-L-L, we have personnel who are accomplished welders, mechanics, plumbers, carpenters and electricians who are constantly performing tasks that save the State of Georgia and the local taxpayer thousands of dollars each year.

## RURAL FIRE DEFENSE

The GFC assists local Rural Fire Departments in the acquisition, inspection and upkeep of all "Co-Op" lease equipment. There has always been excellent cooperation between the GFC and the Echols, Lanier and Lowndes Rural Fire Departments. With this cooperation, the GFC and local fire departments provide our local citizens with the wildland and structural protection needed to ensure public safety.

Of the 60 wildfires this past fiscal year suppressed in E-L-L, the Rural Fire Departments assisted the GFC in the suppression of 39 wildfires.

**\*\*\*Echols 4 of 11, Lanier 3 of 11 and Lowndes 32 of 38 fires responded to\*\*\***