

Guidelines for Cadet, Explorer, and Junior Members of a Fire and Emergency Services Organization.

This Guideline was adopted by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control as a recommended practice.

Scope of this document: This document was prepared to facilitate safe operating practices during training and response of Junior Firefighters between the ages of 15 and 18. These guidelines will include all young Firefighters regardless of name i.e., Junior, Cadet, or Explorer.

Recommended Practice

These guidelines shall in no way make inference that Firefighters under the age of 18 may be used to fight interior structural fires or any other previously determined hazardous jobs during emergency conditions.

- When fire department training includes Jr Firefighters in what could be considered a hazardous environment, a separate designated safety officer will be assigned with the sole responsibility to review and monitor training operations. The lead instructor will be responsible to establish a written risk management plan. The plan will be reviewed with all participants prior to the class. The number of safety officers shall be determined by the lead Instructor and the hazardous operation underway but shall not be less than a 1 to 5 student ratio.
- Training that includes performing interior fire suppression/rescue involving structures and vehicles shall be performed only at purpose built or designed live fire training structures or vehicle prop. **Fire suppression / rescue training in an acquired structure is prohibited.** Full compliance to NFPA 1403 is required.
- All participants using SCBA shall conform to the requirements of CT OSHA 1910.134 respiratory protection standard.
- Training is allowed in confined spaces providing it is an approved training area or prop with required emergency accessibility and air monitoring present.
- Performing ice rescue training operations with appropriate equipment and safety lines. A separate safety officer for juniors will be present.
- Juniors may operate on ladders over 6 feet providing, 1) A safety officer is present to monitor, 2) Fall protection systems are in place when ladders over 24 ft are used and an instructor is on the safety line. Aerial ladder operations are allowed providing fall protection is employed.
- Performing duties using all size hose lines is allowed during training and exterior only fire operations.

If the Firefighter is under 18, these activities are recommended as prohibited:

- Driving any vehicle in Emergency mode. Including personnel vehicles with blue lights.
- Performing interior fire suppression involving structures, vehicles. Grass fire suppression is allowed after being trained in the safe method.
- Responding to Hazardous material fires, spills, or other events that may expose him/her to a toxic and or hazardous material exceeding a threshold limit value listed in the table of section 1910.1000, subpart Z of 29 CFR 1910, (allowance for small motor vehicle fuel leaks)
- Filling air bottles, changing SCBA Air bottles is allowed.
- Operating Aerial ladders
- Operating in emergency conditions on a boat for marine rescue activities.
- Provide Traffic Control on a public roadway.

- Performing firefighting overhaul duties. Assisting in a fire investigation as a trainee with supplied air/ SCBA is allowed.

If the Cadet is under 16 years of age the following guidelines should be used:

- Able to receive instruction and engage in training that does not involve fire or toxic smoke. Theatrical smoke is acceptable with SCBA.
- After receiving proper training, responding to emergencies on emergency apparatus. (Must be at least 15 years old)

Each Department should contact their insurance carrier to ensure proper coverage for minors.

FIRE 1 CERTIFICATION

If FF 1 Certification is desired the Certification Division at the Commission of Fire Prevention and Control has determined that, they will test candidates younger than 18 but will not issue the certification until reaching their 18th birthday upon request. This was validated by DESPP Legal. **The process should include a Regional Fire School(s) and the local Board of Education as a partnership.**

CT Department of Labor, Wage and Hourly Division has made a determination that child labor laws **DO NOT** apply to Junior Firefighters that are not employed and do not receive any payment for firefighting services. Nor do these laws apply to a structured training program through an official educational program. (See Email to KKowalski from CTDOL below.)

From: Wydra, Thomas <Thomas.Wydra@ct.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 9:54 PM
To: Kevin Kowalski <KKowalski@simsburyfd.org>

Subject: RE: Jr Firefighting training

Deputy Chief Kowalski (Kevin),

It was a pleasure meeting with you and the rest of the group last week to discuss the questions surrounding the participation of 16 and 17 year old minors in junior firefighting training in which there is no payment of wages involved, and participation is on a voluntary basis. Inasmuch as the Department of Labor regulates the employer/employee relationship, the activities of the individuals engaged in this program are not subject to the statutes and regulations codified in title 31 (Labor) of the Connecticut General Statutes. I must note that this determination is provided without prejudice to the rights and privileges of the Connecticut Department of Labor and is subject to change if contrary information is discovered.

It is recommended that the activities of the minors involved in the program be closely scrutinized and supervised to ensure that their health and safety is protected.
I hope that this information is helpful.

Sincerely,
Tom
Thomas J. Wydra, Director
Wage & Workplace Standards Division