



Pleasant Gap Fire Company No. 1 Fire Rescue EMS

475 Robinson Lane, Pleasant Gap Pa. 16823
Phone (814)359-2102 Fax (814)359-4110



Junior Firefighter / EMS Guidelines

These guidelines reflect and reference the most current Child Labor Laws issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They outline the capabilities, duties, and functions that junior members (ages 14 -17) may be assigned during training, station details, and emergency incident response.

All junior members must adhere to all other Company By-laws, Operating Guidelines, and rules as established by the officers and the membership of the Pleasant Gap Fire Company.

Note: If there is any conflict between these guidelines and current Child Labor Laws issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the company should prioritize compliance with the law and amend the guidelines as necessary.

Guideline Statements

Work permit issued by the school district must be provided with application.

Juniors must follow orders from the fire chief, EMS chief, or officer in charge to the best of their abilities.

Juniors shall not answer fire alarms until given approval by the fire chief.

Juniors may not be at the station without supervision provided by an active department member.

Juniors may not show non-members or unauthorized persons around the firehouse.

Juniors are eligible for worker's compensation if injured during company-approved activities (e.g., training, work sessions, fundraising, emergency responses).

Juniors must maintain a "C" average or better in school. Report cards must be submitted after each marking period. If grades are below a "C" average, the member will be suspended until "C" average is met.

Loud and/or profane language, quarreling, or other bad behavior is prohibited. Junior members must show respect for all other members of the fire company.

Suspension or expulsion from school must be reported to the President, and will be reviewed by the Vigilance Committee.

Juniors absent from school due to illness may not attend any fire company activities, including emergency responses, that day.

Injuries or illnesses resulting from fire company activities must be reported immediately to appropriate leadership (fire chief, EMS chief, safety officer, etc.).

Juniors must respond to calls in non-emergency mode and may not use warning devices or ignore traffic laws.

Apparatus seating is prioritized by training. Junior members must yield seats to more trained members if necessary.

Complaints regarding junior members should be made to the fire chief, EMS chief, or officer in charge. The President may be involved in cases of potential conflicts of interest.

Juniors must log their time for any company-approved activity (e.g., training, meetings, emergency fundraising, responses) in the Junior Log.

Juniors may be issued company property (e.g., pagers, PPE) but must store PPE at the firehouse (certain exceptions may be made). Pagers shall not be carried during school.

Hours of Employment

Junior members ages 16 & 17:

The junior member may not be employed before 6 a.m. or after 12 midnight, except that during a school vacation period a minor shall be permitted to be employed until 1 a.m. Junior members who begin operations at an emergency incident during legal hours, are permitted to continue activities until excused by the fire chief or officer-in-charge. These juniors will not be considered in violation of the "hours of employment" section of the PA Child Labor Law.

No night work.

The work cannot interfere with regular school attendance.

The junior may be employed for no more than eight hours on a school day and no more than 10 hours on a day when there is no school.

The junior may not be employed for more than 28 hours per week during a regular school week.

The junior may not be employed for more than 48 hours during a week when school is not in session.

Junior members ages 14 & 15:

The junior may not be employed before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m.

A junior may engage in training or firefighting activities until 10 p.m. before a school day if the minor has the written consent of the minor's parent or legal guardian

The work cannot interfere with regular school attendance.

The junior may not be employed for more than three hours on a school day and no more than eight hours on a day when there is no school

The junior may not be employed for more than 18 hours per week during a regular school week (i.e., maximum of 18 hours Monday – Friday school week plus 8 additional hours on Saturday and Sunday).

The junior may not be employed for more than 40 hours during a week when school is not in session.

Prohibited Activities

The following applies to all junior members ages 14-17

Juniors are not permitted to pilot or operate any water rescue boat or vessel.

Juniors are not permitted to operate elevators or participate in elevator rescues.

Juniors are not permitted to perform rescue operations in tunnels, shafts, or trenches.

Juniors are not allowed to participate in emergencies at firework plants, retailers, or in support of public safety for a public display.

Juniors are not permitted to perform emergency operations in or around mines, strip mines, or quarries.

Juniors are not permitted to participate in the response to incidents involving paint products.

Juniors are not permitted to participate in the response to incidents involving radioactive substances.

Juniors are not permitted to perform rooftop ventilation or any other work on any roofs.

Juniors are not permitted to operate acetylene torches, cutting or crushing equipment, or respond to structural collapse incidents.

Juniors are not permitted to operate circular saws, band saws, guillotine shears, chain saws, reciprocating saws, wood chippers, and abrasive cutting discs

Juniors are not permitted to operate an aerial ladder, aerial platform or hydraulic jack.

Juniors are not permitted to use rubber electrical glove, insulated wire gloves, insulated wire cutters, life nets or acetylene cutting torches.

Juniors are not permitted to operate the pumps of any fire vehicle at the scene of a fire.

Juniors are not permitted to drive a fire apparatus, ambulance, or other official fire vehicle.

Juniors are not permitted to enter a burning structure.

Juniors are not permitted to operate on a highway (interstate) that is open to the public for vehicular travel.

In addition to the above, the following applies to junior members ages 14 and 15.

Juniors are not permitted to operate high pressure hose lines except during training activities.

A high pressure hose line is:

- 1) Any water hose used for fire suppression with a pressure greater than 150 psi.
- 2) Any air hose with a pressure greater than 100 psi.

3) Any hydraulic hose used for rescue tools with a pressure greater than 1,000 psi.

Juniors are not permitted to ascend ladders except during training activities.

Juniors are not permitted to ride on any EMS units.

Juniors are not permitted to respond to or operate at automobile accidents or incidents that are located on public roads

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