

Minors 16 & 17 Years Old

A. Permitted Activities

- I. Junior members of an emergency service organization **may**:
 - a. Participate in fire suppression activities under the following conditions:
 - 1) The junior member must have completed a course of training equal to the standards for basic firefighting established by the Department of Education. *The Essentials of Firefighting – Module 1* is the recommended minimum training course.
 - 2) The member must be under the direct supervision and control of the fire chief or a trained experienced officer over 21 years of age. Direct supervision means that the officer must be within speaking and touching distance of the junior member.

Permitted activities include, but are not limited to:

- Attacking the fire with hose lines as part of exterior operations.
- Setting ladders.
- Setting up Positive Pressure Ventilation as part of exterior operations.
- Exterior salvage operations.
- Establishing water supply.
- Assisting at vehicle extrication and other types of rescues.

- b. Provide emergency medical care to victims of emergencies under the following conditions with supervision by an authorized member over 21 years of age:
 - 1) The junior member **must** have completed training in CPR. This training should include one and two-person CPR, child, infant, and adult CPR, and airway obstruction as a minimum.
 - 2) The junior member **must** have completed training in Advanced First Aid, First Responder, or Emergency Medical Technician.

B. Prohibited Activities By Law

The law specifically prohibits members under the age of 18 of an emergency service organization from participating in the following activities:

- Operating an aerial ladder/platform or hydraulic jack.
- Using rubber electric gloves insulated wire cutters life nets or acetylene cutting torches.
- Operating the pumps of any fire vehicle at the scene of a fire.
- Driving a fire truck, ambulance, or any other official emergency vehicle.
- Entering a burning structure.
- Operating high-pressure hose lines (water, air or hydraulic), **except** during training.
- Ascending ladders, **except** during training.

The law also prohibits certain occupations for minors **under the age of 18**. These occupations may have tasks similar to those performed by emergency services personnel. The following occupations and tasks should be considered **prohibited** for junior members of emergency service organizations:

- ❖ Boats – pilot (operator) any boat or vessel. **Juniors are not permitted to operate any water rescue boat or vessel.**
- ❖ Crane Operator – cranes and hoists. **Juniors are not permitted to operate any aerial device mounted on a fire apparatus.**
- ❖ Elevators – operates or manages passenger or freight elevators. Hoisting and lifting equipment. **Juniors are not permitted to operate any aerial device, air bags for lifting, or winches.**
- ❖ Excavating – working within tunnels or shafts and trenches more than four feet (4') deep. **Juniors are not permitted to perform rescue operations in tunnels, shafts, or trenches.**
- ❖ Explosives – work where explosives are manufactured, handled, or stored. **Juniors are not allowed to participate in emergencies at firework plants, retailers, or in support of public safety for a public display.**
- ❖ Mines – dangerous occupations in and around mines. **Juniors are not permitted to perform emergency operations in or around mines, strip mines, or quarries.**
- ❖ Paint, Acid, and Poisons – work in any capacity in the manufacture of paint, color or white lead, poisonous dyes, or compositions using dangerous lead or acids. **Juniors are not permitted to participate in the response to incidents involving paint products.**
- ❖ Radioactive Substances – in all occupations involving exposure to radioactive substances, or ionizing radiation. **Juniors are not permitted to participate in the response to incidents involving radioactive substances.**
- ❖ Roofing – all occupations. **Juniors are not permitted to perform rooftop ventilation or any other work on any roofs.**
- ❖ Wrecking and Demolition – all occupations. **Juniors are not permitted to operate acetylene torches, cutting or crushing equipment, or respond to structural collapse incidents.**

C. All Other Activities

All other activities by junior members of an emergency service organization shall be permissible unless specifically prohibited by the Child Labor Law (Act 1915, P. L. 286, No. 177).

D. Participation of Juniors in the Emergency Service Organization

- ❖ Junior members may participate in organized training activities, in which an adult member of the department is present and observing the training activities.
- ❖ Junior members may provide first aid care to accident victims.
- ❖ While operating at an emergency scene, the junior members may participate in clean-up activities (rolling hose, putting away portable tools, removing debris) under the following conditions:
 1. The junior member will be limited to operations outside of the fire building.
 2. The junior member may only perform activities after the incident is determined to be under control by the officer in charge.
- ❖ Junior members may also provide canteen (food services) during emergency incident operations.

E. Exception for Employment Outside of “Hours of Employment”

Sixteen and seventeen year old junior members of an emergency service organization, who begin operations at an emergency incident, 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 (Act 1915, P.L. 286, No. 177).