

**Barkhamsted Fire District Guidelines for Junior Programs**  
**January 2011**

Junior's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_

These Fire Department Junior guidelines have been created to comply with the Connecticut Department of Labor, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association. They have been developed to provide guidance to Barkhamsted District's three Fire Department Junior programs.

**Mission Statement**

It is the intent of the junior program to provide a safe, yet meaningful experience for the youth of our community. The Safety of the juniors is the highest priority at all times. The junior program is not intended to replace fire personnel, but rather to expose our youth to the occupation of firefighting.

**Junior Guidelines**

**SECTION ONE: Introduction**

1. Juniors will be introduced to fire fighting and rescue techniques and equipment. (2) They will serve as a support organization during emergency calls.
2. Their main tasks will be setting up staging areas at emergency scenes, acquiring fire fighting/ rescue equipment upon request, and maintaining an inventory of equipment on each apparatus. The juniors shall also assist in wildland firefighting, apparatus cleaning and other department needs as they arise.
3. Each department shall have junior advisor whose role shall be to provide advice and guidance on all junior issues. The junior advisor shall be an active member of the fire department.
4. All junior members shall be between the ages of 14 to 18.
5. Membership will not be determined on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, or physical disability. All juniors have to follow the District's medical policy, see below for more details.
6. All members must have written permission from the parent(s) or legal guardian allowing the member to participate in department functions. Parent(s) or legal guardians must sign this form indicating their approval. Where used in this document parent shall also mean legal guardian.

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**SECION TWO:     Duties/expectations of membership**

1.     All juniors are expected to maintain professional behavior at all times.
2.     Any violation of these guidelines will result in disciplinary action determined by the junior's advisor. Juniors are subject to the by-laws of their department and the District's policies.
3.     The continued participation of any junior following violation of state or federal laws will be determined by the advisor and their chief.
4.     The consumption of alcoholic beverages, smoking and illegal drug use is strictly forbidden. Any junior involved in these activities may be dismissed immediately.
5.     Junior attendance at meetings and drills will be determined by the respective departments. Any junior who is not able to provide a reasonable commitment must meet with the advisor to discuss continued participation.
6.     Any member may be excused from a meeting or drill providing the advisor is notified.
7.     Parents will determine if the involvement of their child as a junior is affecting their academic performance. They may adjust their child's commitment levels as they see fit.
8.     Any grievance regarding a junior's behavior shall be brought to the advisors attention immediately.

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**SECTION THREE - State of CT guidelines & regulations**

The guidelines for all junior activities including responding to emergency calls, attending training drills and support activities are outlined below. They shall conform to the various State of CT guidelines & regulations.

Paragraph	State of CT, Dept of Labor-Guidelines of May 2008	Barkhamsted Fire District Policy Committee Response
A1	<b>The following activities for all firefighter trainees (juniors/explorers/ Junior Firefighter etc.) under the age of eighteen (18) years are prohibited:</b>	
A2	1. Driving any department vehicles in emergency mode.	Barkhamsted Fire District policy is more restrictive than this, drivers have to be 21 years old to operate vehicles during emergencies, with the exception if the 18 to 20 year old who has to meet numerous criteria to drive in an emergency mode. No driver under the age of 18 can drive any district vehicle at any time.
A3	2. Perform <b>interior</b> fire suppression involving structures, vehicle, or wild land fires, except grass fires. ((The letter from dept of Labor says that wild land fires if the juniors have had the appropriate training and if over 16 is ok to fight. ))	Juniors can respond to emergencies and work on the exterior fire ground, with the noted exclusions below. While under supervision, Juniors can perform exterior structural fire suppression like holding a small line or guiding a fixed gun outside of a structure.
A4	3. Operate a personal vehicle with blue lights	This is very clear.
A5	4. Perform firefighting overhaul duties. ((Only after the IC says that the scene is safe they can "clean up".))	This is very clear.
A6	5. Respond to hazardous materials fires, spills or other events which may expose the minor to a toxic and/or hazardous material exceeding a threshold limit value listed in the tables of section 1910.1000of subpart Z of 29 CFR 1910. (allows for small motor vehicle fuel leaks)	Juniors can work in "cold zones", i.e. areas that are safe from HazMat exposure. If an incident turns into a HazMat then Juniors will have to be pulled back into a cold zone.
A7	6. Perform any activity, except training performed by qualified personnel (after medical certification as required by 29 CFR 1910.134), involving the use of self-contained breathing apparatus:	Juniors can train with SCBAs if they pass our medical clearance for SCBA use this includes passing the spirometer test.

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A8	7. Enter a confined space as defined in 29 CFR 1910.146;	This is very clear.
<b>Paragraph</b>	<b>State of CT, Dept of Labor-Guidelines of May 2008</b>	<b>Barkhamsted Fire District Policy Committee Response</b>
A9	8. Perform "off shore" ice rescue activities	On shore rescue activity is OK.
A10	9. Perform any duty, which involves the risk of falling a distance 6 feet or more (including the use of ladders);	Raising ladders is OK, climbing them is not. Climbing on apparatus may not be OK; for instances helping to load hose on Engine 4 or Tanker 34 is not OK, but on Squad 51 (with its low hose bed) is OK.
A11	10. Filling air bottles;	Filling air bottles with the air compressor or a cascade system is not OK but they can change a bottle.
A12	11. Using cutting torches;	This is very clear.
A13	12. Operating aerial ladders;	This is very clear.
A14	13. Performing any duties involving the use of lines greater than 2.5", except 5-6" suction lines during drafting operations.	See paragraphs B6 & B15 below which implies that "picking up" any size hose is OK and using a charged 1 3/4" is OK for 16 & 17 year olds. We think that juniors should not be allowed to hold on to a 2 1/2" without a certified firefighter.
A15	Marine rescue activities except in training situations.	Not allowed except in training.
A16	Provide traffic control on public highways.	Not allowed.
<b>Paragraph</b>	<b>State of CT, Dept of Labor-Guidelines of May 2008</b>	<b>Barkhamsted Fire District Policy Committee Response</b>
B1	<b>The following activities may be performed by minors 16 and 17 year-old:</b>	
B2	1. Attend and take part in adult supervised training;	All junior training has been and will be supervised by adults.
B3	2. Wear personal protective equipment that readily identifies them as a "minor firefighter;"	We are doing this with red helmets. We will look at putting the junior's age with decals on the front of their helmets. We will put the letter "A" on their helmet if they have passed the spirometer test.
B4	3. May respond to emergencies on fire department apparatus after receiving proper training;	Juniors have to have "proper training" for riding in a fire apparatus.
B5	4. Participate in functions within the rehabilitation sector;	Our juniors have been doing this safely & well for years.
B6	5. Pick up hose and clean up at the fire scene after the incident commander has declared the area as safe;	These juniors are Ok to pick up hose and help clean up. This is not over haul.
B7	6. Fight grass fires, after receiving proper training; See A3 above.	We have had and will continue to schedule "proper training" for grass / woods fires using the DEP or other appropriate training program.
B8	7. Perform search and rescue operations, not including	We have had and will continue to scheduled exterior S&R training.

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	structural fire fighting;	
B9	8. Use pneumatic/power driven saws, shears, Hurst-type tools, or other power tools during training evolutions only;	Operating or using these tools during training is OK but not at an emergency. Helping to set up these tools, connecting hoses or wires is OK at an emergency. There is no apparent restriction about running small motors like generators and hydraulic/water pumps (300 gpm) - all of which we have/will continue to train on.
B10	9. Enter the interior of a fire structure after the fire is extinguished and the structure has been declared safe by the Incident Commander;	Paragraph A5 above is clear that juniors cannot perform overhaul activities. Juniors can help clean up equipment including hose. More importantly, these juniors can see for themselves what a fire scene looks like after extinguishment.
B11	10. Set up uncharged attack lines exterior to the structure;	Juniors can continue to help set up and connect hoses.
B12	11. Change SCBA bottles at emergency scenes.	Juniors have & will continue to change air bottles.
B13	12. Perform traffic control duties after receiving proper training;	Not allowed
B14	13. Operate pumps, less than 300 GPM, at an emergency scene;	These juniors can run portable pumps at emergencies.
	13.a.	Juniors cannot put a pump in gear (actually sitting in the cab) but may learn how to assist a pump operator at the pump panel in training.
B15	14. Handle charged hose lines up to 1 3/4" diameter;	These juniors can operate charged hose lines up to 1 3/4".
B16	15. Drive department vehicles, not greater than 10,000 pounds GVWR, in a non-emergency mode, after receiving proper training.	See paragraph A2 above, the fire district's policy is more restrictive than this. There are no District vehicles that a 16 - 17 year olds are allowed to drive whether in an emergency or not.
B17	EMS, ...must be under the supervision of an EMS provider who is over 18 and of equal or higher EMS certification level.	OK to do in an emergency if certified and with a provider over 18 with equal or greater certification.
B18	<u>The above duties may be performed between the hours of 6A.M. and 12 A.M.</u>	- So no response for these juniors between 10PM to 6AM. If they are already at a scene at midnight then they have to head home. We will add to our accountability forms the age of all our juniors in town so that the Incident Commander can easily keep track of which juniors are at the scene and when they have to leave. 16 -17 year olds should not respond after 10PM and leave the scene by midnight.

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<b>Paragraph</b>	<b>State of CT, Dept of Labor-Guidelines of May 2008</b>	<b>Barkhamsted Fire District Policy Committee Response</b>
C1	<b>14 and 15 year-olds may only perform the following:</b>	
C2	1. Attend meetings that conclude no later than 10P.M. throughout the year; respond to incidents no later than 7 P.M. and may remain on-scene no later than 10 P.M.;	So no response for these juniors between 7PM to 7AM. These juniors can attend drills that concluded by 10PM; however, most of our drills are over by 9PM. This is very clear about no response for these juniors between 7PM to 6AM. If they are already at a scene before 7PM then at 10PM they have to head home.
C3	1.a. Responding to incidents between the hours of 7 A.M. and 7PM and remaining at the scene no later than 10 P.M.	So no response for these juniors between 7PM to 7AM.
C4	2. Wear personal protective equipment that readily identifies them as "minor firefighters;"	This is similar to paragraph B3 above. We will add & update the junior's age on their red helmets so that their age is readily visible to all on the fire ground. We will look at putting the junior's age with decals on the front of their helmets.
C5	3. Receive instruction and engage in training that does not involve fire, smoke (except theatrical/latex smoke), toxic or noxious gas, or hazardous materials or substances;	All juniors will not train with real fire or smoke; we will continue to us non-toxic "training" smoke for our SCBA drills. See A17 above.
C6	4. May respond to emergencies on fire department apparatus after receiving proper training after the age of fifteen;	No 14 year old we be allowed to ride on any FD apparatus responding to any emergency. They can ride on apparatus during training and other non-emergency activity. Parents that bring a 14 year old to a fire scene will have to personally hand off the junior to a fire scene officer. Parents of 14 year olds have to understand the impact of fire scene traffic congestion.
C7	5. Observe exterior firefighting activities, while under supervision of a certified firefighter;	All our juniors have been and will continue to be under supervision of a certified firefighter when on the fire ground.
C8	6. Clean-up service at the scene of the fire, but only outside of the structure and only after the scene has been declared safe by the incident commander;	Again, juniors will be able to help clean up that does not mean overhaul.
C9	7. Participate in functions within the rehabilitation sector.	Our juniors have been doing this safely & well for years.
C10	EMS must be under the supervision of an EMS provider who is over 18 and of equal or higher EMS certification level.	OK to do in an emergency if certified and with a provider over 18 with equal or greater certification.
C11	<u>The above duties may be performed between the hours of 7A.M. and 10 P.M.</u>	- This is redundant. See paragraph C2 & C3 above.

