

West Virginia Child Labor Requirements

Junior Volunteer Firefighters

West Virginia Division of Labor

Wage & Hour Section

Child Labor Fact Sheet #7 – Chapter 21, Article 6, Section 2(c)

(June 2018)

Junior Volunteer Firefighters

Minors between the age of sixteen and eighteen who are enrolled in, participating in, or have completed the minimum training requirements of the West Virginia State Fire Commission, West Virginia Department of Education Public Service Training, West Virginia University Fire Service Extension, or an equivalent approved program and obtained the written consent of a parent or guardian may be employed or elected as a member of a volunteer fire department to perform limited firefighting activities. §21-6-2(c)

All minors elected as a junior volunteer fire fighter must also apply to the county superintendent of schools for an age certificate as verification of his or her true age. Although permitted to perform limited duties as a junior firefighter, no minor may be permitted to operate any firefighting vehicles, enter a burning building in the course of his or her employment or work, or enter into any area determined to be an area of danger by the fire chief or fireman in charge unless the child is under the immediate supervision of a fire line officer. §21-6-2(c) §42CSR-9 12.3

Restrictions Relating to Responding to Calls §42CSR-9 12.5

Junior firefighters may not respond to a fire while school is in session, or during school hours, unless the fire official in charge has obtained permission from the minor's school principal.

Responsibilities of the Volunteer Fire Department §42CSR-9 12.2

Relating to junior volunteer firemen, the volunteer fire department is responsible for ensuring all the following issues are addressed prior to adding the name of a minor child to the department's roster as a volunteer fireman.

- The minor has provided evidence that he or she is enrolled in, participating in, or has completed one of the minimum training requirements of the WV State Fire Commission, WV Department of Education Public Service Training, West Virginia University Fire Service Extension, or equivalent approved program, and

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- has obtained the written consent of his or her parents to be employed or elected as a member of a volunteer fire department, and
- Has obtained and provided evidence of an age certificate.

Permissible Activities for Junior Firefighters §42CSR-9 12.4

- Participate in the training activities of an approved fire training program.
- Administer first-aid at a fire or emergency scene, but not the inside area of a building or structure, after a fire has been declared by the official in charge to be under control.
- Clean up the outside area of a fire or emergency scene, but not the inside area of a building or structure, after a fire has been declared by the official in charge to be under control.
- Provide coffee and food service at a fire or emergency scene when needed, but only at a safe distance from any building or structure.

Non-Permissible Activities for Junior Firefighters §42CSR-9 12.3

- The driving of any fire apparatus, ambulance or another official fire vehicle.
- The operation of flashing lights, a siren (or other audible signal) when responding to an alarm in any vehicle, even their own personal vehicle.
- Operating or climbing an aerial ladder, aerial platform, or hydraulic jack at a fire or emergency scene.
- The use of rubber electrical gloves, insulated wire gloves, insulated wire cutters, life nets, acetylene cutting units, K-12 fire rescue saws, air chisels, the jaws-of-life or other hydraulic rescue tools, or other equipment relating to rescue and fire operations at a fire or emergency scene.
- Operation of the pumps or high-pressure hoses of any fire vehicle while at a fire or emergency scene.
- Entering a burning structure.