



## **BIG LAKES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Big Lakes County Fire Department recognizes the value of having Junior Firefighters on the department as they are our future firefighters and having an important role within our department.

### **Procedure**

1. Junior Firefighters shall have completed an application for membership which must be signed by the parent/guardian. It may also be approved by the Fire Chief.
2. The age of the Junior Firefighters will be 15 to 17 years old.
3. Junior Firefighters shall have all the same PPE as the active firefighters and will have a black helmet.
4. At any incident scene juniors will stay in the cold zone and will only partake in support roll operations.
5. Junior Firefighters will be allowed to do all the same training as active firefighters as long as it does not require driving.

### **Junior Firefighter Program Guidelines**

The Junior Firefighter Program for Big Lakes County Fire Department as a training program for young men and women, aged 15-17, interested in serving their community and preparing them to become active firefighters upon reaching the age of 18.

As a Junior Firefighter, members serve in a support role for active firefighters at actual emergencies and attend weekly training with the department. In both training sessions and actual emergency situations, the safety of the Junior Firefighter is of paramount concern to the Department. As such, the activities of the Junior Firefighters are limited in scope and the fire officers closely supervise them. The Junior Firefighter quickly become an integral part of the firefighting team during emergencies, serving in such important capacities as establishing a water supply, supplying equipment for interior firefighters, changing air packs,



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operating exterior hose lines and assisting with interior overhaul once a fire has been extinguished. It should be understood, however that despite the training and supervision provided, firefighting is a risky activity and injury is a possibility. The fire officers will make every effort to minimize the Junior Firefighters' exposure to danger. It is also the responsibility of the Junior Firefighter to avoid know hazardous situations.

Due to the inherit dangers of the firefighting, strict rules of conduct and tight procedural standards have been established. In an actual emergency, it is essential that all firefighters, including Junior Firefighters, act in a calm and efficient manner. The Junior Firefighters are expected to attend training to be prepared for the many challenges presented in an emergency situation. Each member is expected to read and understand these requirements and to adhere to the standards. The Fire chief and Deputy Fire chiefs are available to discuss any questions.

### **Eligibility**

1. Any resident of Big Lakes County between the ages of 15-17, may make application for membership to the Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program.
2. The application must be completed. This application includes a parental consent that must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. The application must approved by the Fire Chief for Big Lakes County.

### **General Rules**

1. The general standards of conduct is to act in the manner of a professional. Junior firefighter represent the fire department on and off the fire grounds, and are expected to be courteous and respectful to the fellow firefighters and emergency personnel and all citizens served. The fire department will not tolerate vulgar, offensive, discriminatory or threatening language or gestures at any time.
2. The fire department maintains a "zero tolerance" policy with respect to drug and alcohol use and violation of public laws. Any possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal



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drugs, on the fire department apparatus, emergency scenes, training sessions, or official functions, will result in immediate and permanent suspension from the Junior Firefighting Program.

3. Junior Firefighters may not use or display emergency identification on their personal vehicles unless approved by the Fire Chief.
4. Junior Firefighters are not permitted to attend fire calls if there is a chance, they will miss school.
5. Junior Firefighters may not operate fire department vehicles.
6. Power tools, hydraulic and pressurized air operated equipment, cutting devices such as chain saws/roof saws, air bags and extrication tools are to be operated only under the direct supervision of a fire officer or his/her designee. Full protective gear must be worn by the Junior Firefighter when operating any power tool, hydraulic or pressurized air operated equipment, or cutting device.
7. Junior Firefighters are not to participate in any fire department activity, including emergencies, during school hours. Junior Firefighters are not to leave school, or school activity, for an emergency response. Junior Firefighter are not to respond to any emergencies which may last after 2200 on school night (Sunday-Thursday).
8. Junior Firefighter must attend a minimum of 75% of training nights or meetings conducted each year. Junior Firefighters are not required to respond to emergency calls.
9. Junior Firefighters are responsible for the care of all fire department gear issued to them.
10. Junior Firefighter may not fill Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA) air bottles, and are to remain clear of the filling area when air bottles are being filled, unless under direct supervision.



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11. All firefighters are to be seated in the truck cab when the apparatus is in motion.
12. Junior Firefighters are to report directly to the station at all times. Junior Firefighters are not to drive personal vehicles to any scene unless directed by a Fire Officer.
13. Report any injury to a fire officer or safety officer.

### **Emergency Response**

1. Junior Firefighters may respond to emergency calls, except as outlined in (2) and (3) below. Junior Firefighters should respond to the fire hall or as directed by Fire Officer. Junior Firefighters may respond on fire department apparatus if seats are available (Junior Firefighters will relinquish seats to senior firefighters as needed). Junior Firefighters are under the command of a Fire Officer from the time of their arrival at the station or emergency scene until released from duty by a Fire Officer. If no Officer is aboard the apparatus, the Junior Firefighter will be under the command of the driver until reassigned to a Fire Officer. Firefighters are not to leave an emergency scene without the knowledge and consent of a Fire Officer (each firefighter is to speak with a fire officer directly, not via a third party).
2. Junior Firefighters may not respond to emergencies relating to a hazardous material incident, biological or nuclear hazard, explosive device, terrorist incident, police jurisdiction/crime scene assistance or mass casualty (defined as one likely to involve four or more individuals seriously injured or killed- such as an incident involving a train, aircraft or bus accident)..
3. Firefighters must wear all protective gear while riding on the apparatus and at an emergency scene.
4. Under no circumstances is a Junior Firefighter to enter a burning structure, confined space or underground area, or area subject to a collapse hazard. Once a fire has been brought under control, and the building determined to be structurally sound and free of hazardous materials and toxic gas, the Junior Firefighter may enter the building if accompanied at all times by a Fire Officer or his/her designee. This must be with the consent of the Fire



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Chief. Junior Firefighters may operate exterior hose lines under the direction of a Fire Officer or his/her designee. Junior Firefighters must remain well clear of a motor vehicle fire or other type fire presenting exposure to flammable liquids or hazardous materials.

5. Upon arrival at an emergency scene, a Junior Firefighter is not to enter a private dwelling or other structure with senior firefighters for investigation or emergency action of any type, unless expressly instructed to do so a Fire Officer. Junior Firefighters are to remain with the apparatus or in close proximity to the incident commander, and await specific orders from a fire officer. If the Junior Firefighter receives orders from an officer (or request from a firefighter) of another fire department, it is incumbent upon the Junior Firefighter to advise that officer or firefighter of his/her status as a Junior Firefighter and the limitations placed upon him/her. If ordered to enter a structure by a fire officer for any type of emergency action, the Junior Firefighter must be accompanied at all times by a fire officer or his/her designee.
6. All orders received from a Fire Officer are to be obeyed and executed completely. If, due to safety concerns or for any other reason, the Junior Firefighter is unable to complete an assigned task, the Officer issuing the order, or another Officer in his/her absence, should be immediately notified by the Junior Firefighter who received the order.
7. At emergencies involving downed power lines or gas leak, the Junior Firefighter must remain aboard the apparatus until the area of operation for the Junior Firefighter is determined to be safe by a fire Officer.
8. If assisting with directing traffic, the Junior Firefighter must wear a reflective vest and reflective striped turnout coat. In the evening hours, the firefighter must make use of a flashlight. The Junior Firefighter is not to direct traffic on a divided highway or in snow or ice conditions that may impair motor vehicle control. When assisting with traffic control or crowd control, the instructions of a Fire Officer are to take precedence.
9. Firefighters are not to make any public comments or make statements to the media at the time of an emergency incident, or following the incident,



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concerning conditions relating to the emergency scene. Examples of comments to avoid are the cause and origin of a fire, condition of fire victims, and condition of a home interior or firefighting technique. All public inquiries are to be referred to the Information Officer. It should be understood by the Junior Firefighter that fire investigators and other governmental officials are required to inspect certain types of damage—their presence may in no way indicate suspicion of wrongdoing on the part of the property owner. Firefighters must also understand that individuals whose property has been damaged or destroyed and/or family members injured or killed are extremely sensitive to the statements and actions of emergency personnel. Big Lakes County firefighters are expected to demonstrate the utmost of respect and compassion for these individuals in both their words and actions

10. Valuables found at an emergency scene are to be immediately turned over to a Fire Officer or police officer.
11. Junior Firefighters are not to have any direct contact with an injured person. Report any accidental contact with blood or other bodily fluid to a Fire Officer immediately.

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Chief Administrative Officer

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Date of Final Signature