

Yamhill Fire Protection District

District Policies, Procedures, & SOG's

MISSION

*Yamhill Fire Protection District is dedicated to
serve and protect our community*

District Policies

CADET FIREFIGHTERS

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER– 1001

Junior Firefighters

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Issued: January 11, 2005

Revised: November 12, 2018

INTRODUCTION

The Junior Firefighter Program was instituted by the Yamhill Fire Protection District (YFPD) as a training program for young men and women, aged 16-18, interested in serving their community and preparing to become active firefighters upon reaching the age of 18. At age 18, the Junior Firefighter is eligible to apply for membership with Yamhill Fire Protection District.

The Yamhill Fire Protection District has had a long history of involving High School students in, and introductory training programs. In 1967, James Knope was the first High School student, to enter into a basic student program. Around 1981, the District developed a comprehensive junior firefighter development-training program, and, since that time, the junior program has become a vital part of the District training.

As a Junior Firefighter, members serve in a support role for the senior firefighters at actual emergencies as a supplement to a formal training program. The Junior Firefighters attend weekly training drills with the full District. A YFPD fire officer or designee of the fire chief, serves as the Junior Firefighter training officer, and he/she is the primary contact person for the Junior Firefighter. Those selected are expected to act in a mature manner and commit to a demanding, long-term program.

In both training sessions and actual emergency situations, the safety of the Junior Firefighter is of paramount concern to the District. As such, the activities of the Junior Firefighters are limited in scope and the fire officers closely supervise them. The Junior Firefighters 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, manning 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 dangerous activity and serious 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 known hazardous situations.

Due to the inherent dangers of 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

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manner. The Junior Firefighters are expected to attend training drills in order 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 YFPD fire and administrative officers are available to discuss any questions.

ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED BUT ARE NOT GUARANTEED MEMBERSHIP.

Today, the District has created a program for the future. The program provides new Junior Firefighters with opportunities to acquire introductory skills and encourages them to work towards accreditations. The program encourages and directs Junior Firefighters toward service as a professional or volunteer firefighter, when qualified. The Junior Firefighters will train and work with District firefighters.

The Junior Firefighter will follow all safety rules and comply with the programs policy. They shall have knowledge of and comply with Standard Operation Guides (SOG) and Standard Operation Procedures (SOP), and all other requirements, as set forth by District policies and the Chief Officer.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a set of qualifications and operational procedures for students between the age of 16 years and the age of 18 years. The Policy defines the District and Junior Firefighters responsibilities and restrictions during training.

POLICY

Candidates for the Junior Firefighter Program shall complete an application as provided by the District. The application packet shall contain an application form, a copy of the District Policies, Procedures and SOG manual, a parental release form, and other documents as set forth by the District. The Chief Officer is responsible for all completed and signed forms.

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ELIGIBILITY

1. Any resident of the Yamhill Fire Protection District between the ages of 16-18, may make application for membership in the Yamhill Fire Protection District Junior Firefighter Program.
2. The applicant must be in good academic standing at his/her school at the time of application and during the period of membership as a Junior Firefighter. A minimum GPA of 2.5 must be maintained.
3. The applicant must complete an application, including a medical authorization and police background check. Included with the application is a parental consent that must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. The application must be approved by the YFPD Chief, Officers and YFPD Junior Firefighter training officer.
4. Upon acceptance of the application by the YFPD Chief, Officers and YFPD Junior Firefighter training officer, the Junior Firefighter will begin their Junior Firefighter Program. The Program will terminate upon the applicant 18th birthday.

GENERAL RULES

1. The general standard of conduct is to act in the manner of a professional. Junior Firefighters represent the YFPD and are expected to be courteous and respectful to fellow firefighters and emergency service personnel and all citizens served. The YFPD will not tolerate vulgar, offensive, discriminatory or threatening language or gestures at any time. Junior Firefighters may not wear any article of clothing that, in the opinion of a fire officer, would be offensive to the public served. Violations will result in disciplinary action which could include suspension or termination.
2. The YFPD 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 drugs, will result in immediate and permanent termination from the YFPD Junior Firefighter Program. This includes that Junior Firefighters may not use any tobacco product. Any arrest or conviction for a crime will result in a review of the circumstances by the YFPD Chief and Officers, and may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or termination.

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3. Junior Firefighters may not use or display emergency identification on their personal vehicle. Junior Firefighters may not wear clothing identifying them as an YFPD firefighter, except assigned protective gear, uniforms or log shirts/hats worn for official purposes only. Junior Firefighters will not be issued identification cards.
4. Junior Firefighters may not enter a YFPD fire station unless a senior member of the district is present, and then only for official business (emergency response, training drill, district meeting or work detail). Junior Firefighters may not bring friends into a fire station or permit them to be aboard fire apparatus.
5. Junior Firefighters must leave the station no more than 30 minutes following completion of the emergency response, training drill, district meeting or work detail.
6. Junior Firefighters are not permitted to attend overnight stand-by details (will be released from a stand-by not later than 11:45 PM) or to accompany YFPD firefighters covering the station of another fire department.
7. Junior Firefighters may not borrow YFPD equipment for personal use.
8. Junior Firefighters may not operate YFPD vehicles.
9. Power tools, hydraulic and pressurized air operated equipment, and 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. Power tool use is for training purposes only. A Junior Firefighter may not operate any power tool, hydraulic or pressurized air operated equipment or cutting device at an emergency scene. Full protective gear, including gloves and eye covering, must be worn by the Junior Firefighter when operating any power tool, hydraulic or pressurized air operated equipment, or cutting device.

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10. Junior Firefighters may climb YFPD ground ladders or aerial ladder for training purposes only. Any ladder use must be under the direct supervision of a YFPD fire officer or his/her designee. A ladder belt or safety harness and full protective gear must be worn at all times. Ladders or aerial equipment of another fire department may not be used by the Junior Firefighter without the consent of a fire officer from the other department and a YFPD fire officer.
11. Junior Firefighter are not to participate in any YFPD activity, including emergencies, during school hours. Junior Firefighters are not to leave school, or a school sponsored activity, for an emergency response (Exception: Is written parental consent has been given, student grades are in good standings, and if written prior approval has been given by the school). Junior Firefighters are not to respond to any alarm dispatched after 10:00 PM on a school night (Sunday – Thursday). Junior Firefighter will – be assigned pagers and active 911 as available.
12. Junior Firefighters must attend a minimum of 50% of training drills or meetings conducted each year. Junior Firefighters are not required to respond to emergency calls.
13. Junior Firefighter are responsible for the care of all YFPD gear issued to them and are financially responsible for loss or damage from other than official use as a Junior Firefighter.
14. No firefighter is to ride on a truck step. All firefighters are to be seated in the truck cab when the apparatus is in motion. Junior Firefighters may not repack hose from the hose bed if the apparatus is motion.
15. 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 YFPD Officer.
16. Report any injury to a YFPD fire officer, duty staff or safety officer.
17. Firefighters may not accept monetary payment or gifts for services rendered as a firefighter. Any citizen offering payment of any kind should be advised that payment for firefighting services is not expected. Never accept contributions at an emergency scene. Those individuals seeking to make a contribution should be advised to consider a voluntary contribution to YFPD.

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1. Junior Firefighters may respond to emergency alarms, except as outlined in (2) and (3) below. Junior Firefighters should respond to the fire station or as directed by the YFPD Chief or Junior Firefighter Training Officer via a standing assignment order. Junior Firefighters may respond on YFPD apparatus if seats are available (Junior Firefighters will relinquish seats to senior firefighters as needed). Junior Firefighters are under the command of YFPD fire officers from the time of their arrival at the station or emergency scene until released from duty by a YFPD fire officer. If no officer is aboard the apparatus, the Junior Firefighter will be under the command of the driver until reassigned to a YFPD fire officer. Firefighters are not to leave an emergency scene without the knowledge and consent of Incident Command.
2. Junior Firefighter may not respond to an emergency alarm relating to a hazardous material incident, biological or nuclear hazard, explosive device, terrorist incident, police jurisdiction/crime scene assistance or an incident that is likely to have seriously injured and or fatalities. Junior Firefighters are not to respond to a mutual aid alarm outside of the Yamhill Fire Protection District Jurisdiction unless directed by Incident Command.
3. Prior to responding to alarms, the Junior Firefighter must be trained, and demonstrate proficiency in the use of SCBA equipment. Junior Firefighter use of SCBA equipment at an emergency will only be allowed when escorted by a senior firefighter.
4. Firefighter must wear all protective gear while riding on the apparatus and at an emergency scene.
5. Under no circumstances is a Junior Firefighter to enter a burning structure, confined space or underground area, unless escorted by a senior firefighter.

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6. 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 under the direction of the incident commander. 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. At an emergency scene, a Junior Firefighter may not climb a ladder or operate from a roof or other elevated position unless escorted by a senior firefighter. At an emergency scene, a Junior Firefighter may not operate any power tool, hydraulic or pressurized air operated equipment, or cutting device.
7. Upon arrival at an emergency scene, a Junior Firefighter is not to enter a private dwelling or other structure unless escorted by senior firefighters for investigation or emergency action of any type and instructed to do so by the incident command. Junior Firefighters are to remain with the apparatus or in staging area and await specific orders. 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.
8. All orders received from a fire officer are to be obeyed and executed completely. If, due to safety concerns or for any 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.
9. At an emergency alarm 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 an YFPD fire officer.

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10. Junior Firefighters must wear reflective vest and reflective striped turnout coat when operating on a highway, road or street, and then only in an area as determined by the incident commander or fire officer. Firefighters are not to make public comments or make statements to the media at the time of an emergency incident, or following the incident, concerning conditions relating to the emergency scene. Examples of comments to avoid are the cause and origin of a fire, condition of fire victims, condition of a home interior or fire-fighting technique. All public inquiries are to be referred to the incident commander or YFPD Chief. It should be understood by the Junior Firefighter that fire inspectors or arson 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. YFPD firefighters are expected to demonstrate the utmost of respect and compassion for these individuals in both their words and actions.
11. Valuables found at an emergency scene are to be immediately turned over to a YFPD fire officer or police officer. Theft by a Junior Firefighter will result in an immediate termination from the Junior Firefighter Program and Proper authorities will be notified.
12. Junior Firefighters are not to have any direct contact with an injured person or dead body unless properly certified (First Responder, EMT, or Paramedic), and then only at the direction of a YFPD fire officer or EMS crew chief. Report any accidental contact with blood or bodily fluid to a YFPD fire officer or safety officer immediately, so that medical treatment can be initiated promptly.
13. Must be familiar with district policies and guidelines.

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YAMHILL-CARLTON HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP - OPTIONAL

Interned Junior Firefighter will receive a performance grade from the District. The grade considers achievements in training, acceptance of responsibility, interpersonal relationships, and attitude. The Chief Officer, with recommendations from the Training Officers, will complete trimester evaluations. The grade will not affect the Junior Firefighters Overall High School Grade Point Average (GPA) The Junior Firefighters will maintain regular attendance at school to stay eligible for the program. The Junior Firefighter eligibility includes obtaining a 2.5 GPA and passing all High School classes. Written confirmation of grade status, at each grading period, shall be presented to the Chief Officer within one (1) week of published grades.