

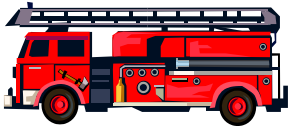


Guidelines for

Cadets, Explorers, and
Junior members of

Fire, Emergency Medical, AND Police Services

In the State of Connecticut



This publication was produced as a result of numerous inquiries as to what duties are permitted to be performed by persons under the age of eighteen (18) years.

In a cooperative effort between the Connecticut Department of Labor, Department of Public Health (OEMS), the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and the Connecticut Fire Chiefs' Association, the following guidelines have been established to protect minors while affording them a safe and meaningful opportunity to explore their interests in possible careers in the public safety and emergency services fields.

Section 31-23, *et seq.* of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for criminal penalties for hazardous employment of persons under the age of eighteen. Although these young people are usually volunteers, they are legally considered to be employees when in service to their respective department or organization.

The following lists are not all-inclusive and should in no way be construed as insulating any department, organization, or person from liability under any state or federal law or regulation. Any incident/accident involving a minor will be investigated on a case-by-case basis.

Questions?

CT Department of Labor
Wage & Workplace Standards Division
(860) 263-6791

The following activities for all persons under the age of eighteen (18) years are **PROHIBITED**:

1. Driving any vehicles in emergency mode
2. Perform interior fire suppression involving structures, vehicle, or wildland fires, except grass fires
3. Operate a personal vehicle with blue lights
4. Perform firefighting overhaul duties
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 1910.1000 of subpart Z of CFR 1910. (Allows for small motor vehicle fuel leaks)
6. Perform any activity, except training performed by qualified personnel (after medical certification as required by 29CFR 1910.134),

- involving the use of self-contained breathing apparatus
- 7. Enter a confined space as defined in 29 CFR 1910.146
- 8. Perform "off shore" ice rescue activities
- 9. Perform any duty which involves the risk of falling a distance of 6 feet or more (Including the use of ladders)
- 10. Filling air bottles
- 11. Using cutting torches
- 12. Operating aerial ladders
- 13. Performing any duties involving the use of lines greater than 2 ½". Except 5-6" suction lines during drafting operations
- 14. Use of firearms, except in training with a qualified instructor
- 15. Marine rescue activities, except in training.
- 16. Traffic control on public highways.

The following activities for persons aged sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) years are

PERMITTED:

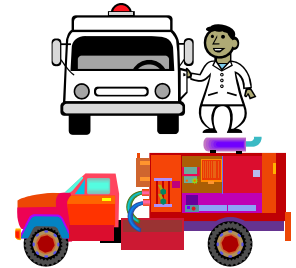
- 1. Attend and take part in supervised training
- 2. The wearing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or uniform that readily identifies them as a Cadet/Explorer or similar nomenclature
- 3. May respond to emergencies on apparatus after receiving proper training
- 4. Participate in functions within the rehabilitation sector

- 5. Pick up equipment and clean up at the scene after the incident commander has declared the area as safe
- 6. Fight brush fires (no standing timber), after receiving proper training.
- 7. Perform search and rescue operations, not including structural firefighting
- 8. Use of pneumatic/power driven saws, shears, Hurst-type tools, or other power tools during training only
- 9. Enter the interior of a fire structure after the fire has been extinguished and the structure has been declared safe by the Incident commander
- 10. Set up uncharged attack lines exterior to the structure
- 11. Change SCBA bottles at emergency scenes
- 12. Operate pumps, less than 300 gpm, at an emergency scene
- 13. Handle charged hose lines up to 1 ¾" diameter
- 14. Drive department vehicles, not greater than 10,000 lbs GVWR, in a non-emergency mode, after receiving proper training
- 15. May take Medical Response Technician (MRT) or Emergency Medical Technician-B (EMT-B) course.
- 16. May perform EMS related duties (CPR, external defibrillation, splinting, controlling bleeding, assessment of vital signs, patient

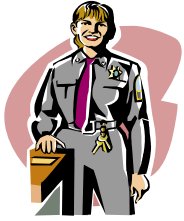
- care during transportation, providing oxygen, etc.) upon certification from the State of Connecticut, but only under supervision by an EMS provider, over the age of 18 years, of equal or higher EMS certification level.
- 17. Marine rescue training activities.

Sixteen and seventeen year-old minors may perform these duties between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and midnight.

These guidelines set the maximum parameters for minors, and are not intended to prohibit any agency from establishing more stringent restrictions.



Each department or agency should contact their respective workers' compensation insurance carrier to ensure proper coverage for minors.



**The following activities for
Fourteen (14) and Fifteen (15)
year-old minors are**

PERMITTED:

1. Attend meetings that conclude no later than 10 P.M. throughout the year
2. Respond to incidents no later than 7:00 P.M. *and may remain on scene until no later than 10:00 P.M.*
3. The wearing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or uniform that readily identifies them as a Cadet/Explorer or similar nomenclature
4. 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
5. May respond to emergencies on emergency apparatus after receiving proper training after the age of fifteen
6. Observe exterior firefighting activities while under supervision by a certified firefighter
7. Clean-up service at the scene of a fire (limited to exterior, after the scene has been declared as safe by the incident commander)

8. Participate in functions within the rehabilitation area
9. May perform EMS related duties (CPR, external defibrillation, splinting, controlling bleeding, assessment of vital signs, patient care during transportation, providing oxygen, etc.) upon certification from the State of Connecticut, but only under supervision by an EMS provider, over the age of 18 years, of equal or higher EMS certification level.

Fourteen and fifteen year-olds may perform the above duties between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M.