

MAHANROY CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guidelines
#4818 – Junior Firefighters

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Effective: 1/01/06

Revised: 12/5/06, 11/01/07

1. Objectives

1.1 The Mahanoy City Fire Department (MCFD) Junior Firefighter Program is a training program for young men and women interested in serving their Community and preparing to become active firefighters. This program and its members shall aid the department to protect lives and property in the community. The program shall also strive to build discipline, character, and a sense of community in our young adults.

1.2 See SOG #4818.1 PA Child Labor Laws

2. Program

2.1 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 will attend periodic training drills geared to the junior program as well as participate in drills with the full department. 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 manner. The junior firefighters are expected to attend training drills to be prepared for the many challenges presented in an emergency situation. Each member is expected to read and understand these requirements and adhere to the standards. 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 or advisors shall closely supervise them. The junior firefighters will 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 and changing air packs. 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.

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3. Advisors

- 3.1 The line officers of the MCFD shall serve as the Junior Firefighter Coordinators and be the principle contacts for the program.
- 3.2 The line officers shall be responsible for the guidance, training and safety duties of the junior members and the program.

4. Membership/Eligibility

- 4.1 Any resident of the MCFD fire jurisdiction between the ages of fourteen and eighteen may make an application for membership in the MCFD Junior Firefighter Program. At the discretion of the line officers, others outside these restrictions may be accepted.
- 4.2 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 2.0 (“C”) must be maintained as well as no failing grades. If grades do fall below the acceptable level, the junior firefighter will be suspended and must show proof of improved grades before being reinstated. All junior members shall provide a copy of their report card to their company Chief.
- 4.3 A prospective member must complete an application and provide results of a medical physical. Included with the application is a list of these rules and regulations which must be approved and signed by a parent/ guardian. At age 18, the junior firefighter becomes eligible for membership as an active senior member.

5. General Rules

- 5.1 The general standard of conduct is to act in the manner of a professional. Junior firefighters represent the MCFD, and are expected to be courteous and respectful to fellow firefighters, emergency service personnel and all citizens served. The MCFD will not tolerate vulgar, offensive, discriminatory or threatening language or gestures at any time. Violations will result in disciplinary action, and may include suspension.
- 5.2 Any possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs, or illegal weapons, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, on MCFD premises or apparatus, emergency scene, training drill, official function, or while in uniform will result in immediate suspension from the MCFD Junior Firefighter Program. Junior firefighters shall not smoke on Company premises or apparatus, emergency scene, training drill, official function, or while in uniform. Any arrest or conviction for a crime will result in a review of the circumstances by the line officers and executive officers, and may result in disciplinary action including permanent suspension.

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- 5.3 Junior firefighters are encouraged to bring friends to the fire station. The junior firefighter must get permission from a company line officer to be permitted to show the friend the apparatus and equipment. At no time will the friend be permitted to be alone on or near the apparatus.
- 5.4 Junior firefighters shall not drive any MCFD vehicles.
- 5.5 Power tools, hydraulic and pressurized air operated equipment and cutting devices such as chain saws/roof saws, are to be operated only under the direct supervision of a fire officer or his/her designee. A junior firefighter must be at least sixteen years old to operate any of this equipment. 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.
- 5.6 Junior firefighters may climb ground ladders or aerial ladder for training purposes only. Any ladder use must be under the direct supervision of a line officer. Appropriate protective gear shall be worn as deemed necessary by the officer conducting the training. Ladders or aerial equipment of another fire department shall not be used by the junior firefighter without the consent of a fire officer from the other department and an MCFD fire officer.
- 5.7 Junior firefighters shall not leave school or a school sponsored activity for an emergency response. If issued to the junior firefighter, a pager is not to be taken to school or to a school function.
- 5.8 Junior firefighters must attend as much training as possible as long as it does not conflict or interfere with any school or family functions or events. School and family comes first.
- 5.9 Junior firefighters are responsible for the care of all gear issued to them, and are financially responsible for loss or damage from other than official use as a junior firefighter. All junior firefighter gear issued by the fire company will be stored at the firehouse.
- 5.10 No junior firefighter shall serve as a spotter for any apparatus at any time.
- 5.10.1 Junior firefighters shall immediately report any injury to an MCFD fire officer or scene safety officer.
- 5.11 Junior firefighters shall not accept monetary payment or gifts for services rendered as a junior 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 contact the chief of the department.

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- 5.12 All junior firefighters will obey the Standard Operating Guidelines and of their Company and the Mahanoy City Fire Department.
6. Response
- 6.1 The following time restraints apply to junior firefighters who are enrolled in high school:
- 6.1.1 On school days, junior firefighters may respond to alarms after 3:30pm.
- 6.1.2 On weekends and days of no school, junior firefighters may respond to alarms after 7:00am.
- 6.1.3 On school nights, junior firefighters shall not respond to any alarms after 10:00pm.
- 6.1.4 On non-school nights, junior firefighters shall not respond to any alarm after 12:00am.
- 6.1.5 Each Company and Fire Police shall adhere to the Pennsylvania Child Labor Laws for response times.
- 6.2 Junior firefighters may respond on MCFD apparatus if seats are available (junior firefighters will relinquish seats to senior firefighters as needed).
- 6.3 All junior firefighters are to be seated, with a properly fastened seatbelt, in the truck cab when the apparatus is in motion. Junior firefighters shall not ride in the Officer's seat during an emergency call but may ride in the Officer's seat for other non-emergency events, if permitted by the operator or officer in charge of the apparatus at that time.
- 6.4 Junior firefighters responding to an emergency alarm in private vehicles are expected to obey all applicable motor vehicle laws. If responding as an EMT with the ambulance, Mahanoy City EMS protocols apply.
- 6.5 Junior firefighters shall not respond to or assist in any manner, an emergency alarm 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).
- 6.5.1 If such an emergency response is not realized until after arrival, junior firefighters are do stay inside the apparatus and away from the scene.
- 6.5.2 MCFD members certified to the level of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and properly appointed as either an EMT or Ambulance Technician with the Mahanoy City Ambulance may, per their EMT training, respond to such incidents with authorization by an EMS Chief.
- 6.6 Junior firefighters shall not respond to any calls to a prison facility.
- 6.7 Junior firefighters are under the command of the fire officers from their Company from time of their arrival at the station or emergency scene until released from duty

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by an MCFD fire officer. If no officer is aboard the apparatus, the junior firefighter will be under the command of the senior ranking firefighter until reassigned to a Company fire officer.

6.8 Junior firefighters shall not leave an emergency scene without the knowledge and consent of their Company fire officer (each junior firefighter is to speak with a fire officer directly, not via a third party).

7. On The Scene

7.1 Junior firefighters must wear all protective gear while riding on the apparatus and at an emergency scene.

7.2 Junior firefighters responding to an emergency must report to their company's apparatus when they arrive on the scene and only when it does not conflict with other parts of this SOG. The junior will report to the operator/driver of the apparatus and remain there until requested. 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.

7.3 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.

7.4 Junior firefighter may enter a fire building when permission has been granted by an officer. Juniors must be accompanied by a senior firefighter or officer.

7.5 Junior firefighters may operate exterior hose lines under the direction of a fire officer or his/her designee during training exercises only.

7.6 Junior firefighters must stay clear of a burning object or structure and stay at a safe distance for any possible extension, debris or explosion.

7.7 At an emergency scene, a junior firefighter shall not climb a ladder or operate from a roof or other elevated position.

7.8 Junior firefighters must remain well clear of a motor vehicle fires or other type fires presenting exposure to flammable liquids or hazardous materials.

7.9 At an emergency alarm involving downed power lines or gas leak, junior firefighters shall remain aboard the apparatus until the area of operation for the junior firefighter is determined to be safe by the incident commander.

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- 7.10 Junior firefighters shall not make any 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 and condition of a home interior or firefighting technique. All public inquiries are to be referred to the incident commander, Company Chief or his/her designee.
- 7.11 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 shall in no way indicate suspicion of wrongdoing on the part of the property owner or others.
- 7.12 Junior 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. All Department members are expected to demonstrate the utmost of respect and compassion for these individuals in both their words and actions.
- 7.13 Valuables found at an emergency scene are to be immediately turned over to an MCFD fire officer or police officer. Theft by a junior firefighter will result in an immediate suspension from the junior firefighter program and the proper police authorities will be notified.
- 7.14 Junior firefighters are not to have any direct contact with an injured person or dead body unless properly certified (first responder), and then only at the direction of an MCFD fire officer or EMS crew chief. Report any accidental contact with blood or other bodily fluid to an MCFD fire officer or safety officer immediately so that medical treatment can be initiated promptly.
8. Insurance
- 8.1 Junior firefighters shall be covered fully under the insurance of the Borough of Mahanoy City, the junior firefighter's Company and/or the Mahanoy City Relief Association while participating in official department business.
- 8.2 Junior firefighters under the age of eighteen are eligible for workers' compensation if injured while actively engaged in junior firefighter duties or while responding to or returning from an emergency scene.
9. Discipline
- 9.1 Any Junior Firefighter found in violation of any of the above rules is subject to warning, suspension or expulsion. Any matters concerning discipline will be subject to review by the line officers and executive officers.

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- 9.2 Any matter involving discipline will be documented and placed in the junior firefighter's personnel file.
- 9.3 It shall be the responsibility of the Assistant Fire Chief to insure that all members are trained to this SOG.
- 9.4 Any firefighter not adhering to this SOG shall be subject to Borough and Department disciplinary action.

Fire Chief

Author

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

I _____ have reviewed the above Standard Operating
(Parent/Guardian Name)
Guidelines of the Mahanoy City Fire Department with and in the presence of my
son/daughter

_____ and permitting my son/daughter to become a
(Member's Name)
junior member of the _____ of the Mahanoy City Fire
(Fire Company)
Department.

I also understand these procedures may be amended as needed in the future and if so, I may be required to provide my signature again.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

A signed copy of this Procedure must be kept on file at the fire company for each junior member.