

**MINORS SERVING IN VOLUNTEER
EMERGENCY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
ABSTRACT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
CHILD LABOR ACT**

Recommended Posting in a Conspicuous Place Where Any Minor Under 18 Serves in a Voluntary Emergency Service Organization
Requirements for minors in other employment are available online: www.dli.pa.gov

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

MINORS AGES 16 & 17:

- Engage in training or firefighting activities permitted under this law from 6:00 am and until midnight the night before a school day or 1:00 am on school vacations.
- Continue to serve in an answer to a fire call until excused by the chief of the fire company if: (i) the minor is a member of a volunteer fire company; (ii) answers a call while lawfully employed; and (iii) the call was received before midnight during a school week or 1:00 am during vacations.
- Firefighting activities if: (i) The minor successfully completed a training course equal to the standards for basic firefighting established by the State Fire Commissioner; and (ii) The minor is under the direct supervision and control of the fire chief, an experienced line officer or a designated forest fire warden.

MINORS AGES 14 & 15:

- Engage in training or firefighting activities permitted under this law from 7:00 am until 10:00 p.m. on the night before a school day if the minor: (i) is a member of a volunteer fire company; and, (ii) has the written consent of the minor's parent or guardian.
- Training.
- First aid.
- Cleanup services at the scene of the fire, outside the structure and after the fire was declared under control by the fire official in charge.
- Serve food and non-alcoholic beverages.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

NO MINOR UNDER 18 MAY:

- Serve with a volunteer emergency service organization without a work permit issued by their school district.
- Work more than six consecutive days.
- Work over five consecutive hours without a 30-minute break.
- Operate a truck, ambulance, or other official fire vehicle.
- Operate an aerial ladder, aerial platform, or hydraulic jack.
- Use rubber electrical gloves, insulated wire gloves, insulated wire cutters, life nets or acetylene cutting units.
- Operate a fire vehicle pump at the scene of a fire.
- Use hazardous occupation equipment prohibited by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry or the U.S. Department of Labor.
- Engage in fighting forest fires and forest fire prevention.
- Enter a burning structure under any circumstance, including a training exercise, *UNLESS*:
 - o The minor is at least 17;
 - o The minor is engaged in a training session for an interior firefighting module with live burns;
 - o The minor has permission to engage in the training from a fire chief and the minor's parent or guardian; and
 - o The minor is under the supervision of a credentialed Pennsylvania State Fire Academy instructor.

MINORS AGES 14 & 15 MAY NOT:

- Operate high pressure hose lines except during training exercises. A high-pressure hose line is any water hose used for fire suppression with a pressure greater than 150 psi, any air hose with a pressure greater than 100 psi and any hydraulic hose used for rescue tools with a pressure greater than 1,000 psi.
- Engage in training and emergency service activities restricted to 16- and 17-year- old minors.

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT

MINORS AGES 16 & 17:

- Limited to 8 hours of work per day when school is in session and 10 hours per day during a school vacation.
- Limited to 28 hours of work during a regular school week and 48 hours per week during a school vacation, but the minor may object to work over 44 hours.
- These hours restrictions do not apply to 16- to 17-year-olds who are high school graduates or legally exempt from attending school.

MINORS AGES 14 & 15:

- Limited to three hours of work on a school day and eight hours on a day when school is not in session.
- Limited to 18 hours of work during a regular school week and 40 hours per week when school is not in session.

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:

Department of Labor & Industry's Child Labor Act: www.dli.pa.gov (Click: "Labor Law Compliance")
Office of the State Fire Commissioner: <https://www.osfc.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Altoona Regional Office:
1130 Twelfth Avenue, Suite 200
Altoona, PA 16601-3486
877-792-8198 or 814-940-6224

Harrisburg Regional Office:
1301 L&I Building,
651 Boas Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0019
717-787-4671 or 800-932-0665

Philadelphia Regional Office:
110 North 8th Street, Suite 203
Philadelphia, PA 19130-4064
215-560-1858

Pittsburgh Regional Office:
301 5th Avenue, Room 350
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
877-504-8354 or 412-565-5300

Scranton Regional Office:
201-B State Office building
100 Lackawanna Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503-1923
570-963-4577 or 877-214-3962

Intended as general information concerning minors in volunteer emergency organizations and should not be considered as legal advice.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program