

Junior Firefighter Program

Purpose

The Eastern Douglas County Volunteer Fire Dept. was established in 1984 to provide fire protection services to the community. We are proud to be 100% volunteer. In 2009 a junior firefighter program was established to develop youth with fire training and service. Being a junior firefighter is a rewarding way to learn skills used in firefighting and emergency medicine. Upon learning a minimum number of skills, advanced juniors can and are expected to respond to emergency calls under the supervision of senior firefighters. The jobs that junior firefighters do, free up qualified senior firefighters to perform other crucial tasks. Juniors will learn on the job and with regular training, be able

to fight real fires once becoming a resident member. All training, and personal protective equipment are provided at no cost.

Being a firefighter can be a dangerous job. Strict laws exist to protect minors from the most hazardous dangers. For example, junior firefighters will never enter a burning building or operate on top of a roof. The Eastern Douglas County Fire Dept. takes safety very seriously and will not tolerate horseplay during training or real emergencies. It must also be recognized that during emergency conditions, a junior might be asked to complete a task prohibited by law. In this case, the junior member must take responsibility to alert the member asking to the fact it is prohibited. You should then report the request to command at the scene. Once back at the station, you should report the incident to a junior advisor so that follow up training can be provided to the crew. **YOU SHOULD NEVER INTENTIONALLY BREAK THE LAW, EVEN IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.**

Introduction

The requirements to be a junior firefighter are as follows. Junior firefighters must be at least 16 years old but not older than 18 years old. They must be able to follow directions under stressful conditions. They should be in good physical condition to perform essential fire ground tasks. Juniors should be willing and able to attend at least 50% of scheduled meetings and required training. Special trainings are optional but highly encouraged. Juniors must maintain a 75% average or higher in their schoolwork to remain active. Junior firefighters need to be self-starters and be willing to learn. Juniors who regularly strive to learn more and be involved will be rewarded with increasing levels of responsibility and opportunities. Junior members who do not contribute to the department will be removed from active status to allow other juniors the opportunity to participate.

The fire department is proud of its members; junior members are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner when representing the fire department. Talking about internal fire department activities including finances and other fire departments reduces the public trust and will be dealt with appropriately.

We are happy to have you as a member of the EDCVFD. We look forward to some great training and your assistance during actual emergencies. Welcome.