



# OGLETHORPE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

**TITLE: Junior Firefighter Auxiliary Members**

**SECTION/TOPIC: Administration**

**ISSUE DATE: May 10, 2021**

**REVIEW DATE: February 27, 2023**

These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

## 1.0 SCOPE

- 1.1 This standard applies any member of the department under the age of 18 or that is still in enrolled in K-12 education.

## 2.0 MEMBERSHIP:

- 2.1 Any Person who has been a resident of Oglethorpe County for a minimum of six (6) months, who is between the ages of 16-18 years of age, is in good physical condition, and maintains at least a "C" average in school, may apply for membership as a Junior Firefighter
- 2.2 The applicant shall provide Oglethorpe County Fire Rescue with at least 2 semester's school records at the time of application. This process shall continue for the duration of the applicant's membership as a Junior Firefighter.
- 2.3 The applicant shall undergo the same application process as an active firefighter applicant. In addition, the applicant shall also provide OCFR with a Parental/Guardian Consent Form (SEE APPENDIX A).A maximum of eight (8) Junior Firefighters may belong to any one station at any given time, at the discretion of each station chief.
- 2.4 All Junior Firefighters shall be on probation for the duration of their membership as a Junior Firefighter.
- 2.5 All Junior Firefighters must abide by all rules, regulations, and by-laws of Oglethorpe County Fire Rescue, as well as each individual station.
- 2.6 Upon a Junior Firefighter's eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday, said Junior Firefighter may apply for membership as an active member. This application process shall be the same as an applicant not serving as a Junior Firefighter. Junior Firefighters that fail to apply for active membership shall be removed from the department roster after thirty (30) days.
- 2.7 The probationary period may be waived, provided the Junior Firefighter time served is greater than one (1) year.
- 2.8 All time served as a Junior Firefighter shall count towards time served within Oglethorpe County Fire Rescue.

## 3.0 VOTING RIGHTS

- 3.1 As probationary members, Junior Firefighters have no voting privileges.

#### 4.0 General Conditions

- 4.1 Junior Firefighters will be transported to and from all Fire Department and Fire Station activities by a licensed driver.
- 4.2 Junior Firefighters are covered by Workers Compensation and Life Insurance through the County of Oglethorpe.
- 4.3 Junior Firefighters are eligible for all benefits provided to active members.
- 4.4 No Junior Firefighters will be authorized to enter the area or be in the vicinity of an area that poses any type of physical hazards to the Junior Firefighter. Junior Firefighters shall not be required to perform any tasks that will expose them to the same degree of hazard as active members.
- 4.5 No Junior Firefighter shall respond directly to the scene of an emergency situation.
- 4.6 Junior Firefighters are not allowed to drive or operate any fire apparatus.
- 4.7 Junior Firefighters are subject to the following curfew: No Junior Firefighter are allowed to be in any firehouse after 10:00PM on a night before school and 12:00 midnight on all other nights.
- 4.8 Exceptions to this will be at the discretion of the Junior Firefighter's parent or guardian and the company officer in charge.
- 4.9 Exceptions to this will only be granted with written pre-authorization ("release") from the parent/guardian to the company officer in charge.
- 4.10 Responding to "After Hours" alarms is optional for Junior Firefighters. Any Junior Firefighters responding to nighttime alarms must be ready and able to attend school the next day, if applicable.
- 4.11 Junior Firefighters are not authorized to enter any firehouse without an adult member being present, with the exception of previously authorized official department business.
- 4.12 Junior Firefighters are not authorized to use red lights on their vehicles.
- 4.13 Junior Firefighters shall be issued a full set of turnout gear. The helmet will be clearly marked as "Junior Firefighter." All personal equipment shall be kept clean and be kept at the firehouse.
- 4.14 Junior Firefighters may also be issued a radio/paging device. These will be issued on a seniority basis and will also depend on availability.
- 4.15 Junior Firefighters shall be allowed and are encouraged to participate in all department activities. This is dependent on "member in good standing" status of the individual member.
- 4.16 Junior Firefighters are subject to follow the same Chain of Command as active members, regardless of station affiliation.
- 4.17 Junior Firefighters **WILL NOT** be excused from school to respond to alarms under any circumstances.
- 4.18 Radios/pagers, if issued, must not be carried in school.

#### 5.0 Discipline and Dismissal

- 5.1 Any Junior Firefighters under the influence of alcohol and/or illegal substance during any department function, activity, or call shall be expelled immediately.
- 5.2 Any Junior Firefighters whose behavior is deemed to be a detriment to Oglethorpe County Fire Rescue may be expelled.

- 5.3 Any Junior Firefighter involved in a Police/Sheriff/Law Enforcement action (other than a Motor Vehicle Infraction) shall be liable for suspension or expulsion.
- 5.4 Any Junior Firefighter failing to maintain a "C" average in school or failing to submit current report cards for each semester/period, shall be subject to suspension until the requirement is satisfied.
- 5.5 Any Junior Firefighter resigning membership from Oglethorpe County Fire Rescue shall immediately return all department owned property.
- 5.6 All disciplinary actions shall be at the discretion/recommendation of the Fire Department Chief, Department Deputy Chief, Station Chief, and Station Officers.