

# **Goldendale Fire Department**

## **Junior Firefighter Program Guidelines**

### **I. OBJECTIVE**

The Junior Firefighter Program is a training program instituted by the Goldendale Volunteer Fire Department for young men and women, aged 16-18, interested in serving their community and preparing to become active Firefighters upon reaching the age of 18. At age 18, the Junior Firefighter is eligible to attend the Firefighter course to become a full member of the Goldendale Fire Department.

### **II. PURPOSE**

Due to the inherent dangers of firefighting, strict rules of conduct and tight procedural standards are 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 to adhere to the standards. The Goldendale Fire Department Officers are available to discuss any questions.

### **III. GUIDELINES**

A Junior Firefighter, serves in a support role for the full member Firefighters at actual emergencies as a supplement to the formal training program. The Junior Firefighters attend weekly training drills with the entire department. One of the Goldendale Fire Department (GFD) Captains is appointed by the Chiefs to run the Junior Program. This captain will oversee all aspects of the Junior Program and report to the Officers of the GFD. Captains serve as the primary contact between the GFD and all members of the Junior Firefighter Program.

In both training sessions and actual emergency situations, the safety of the Junior Firefighter is of paramount concern to the entire fire department. As such, the activities of the Junior Firefighters are limited in scope and all GFD Officers closely supervise them during drills and on emergency calls. The Junior Firefighters quickly become an integral part of the firefighting team during emergencies, serving in such important capacities as establishing a water supply, supplying equipment for full members of the fire department, changing air packs, manning exterior hose lines and assisting with interior overhaul once a fire has been extinguished. 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.

## A. ELIGIBILITY

1. Any resident who lives in the area of Goldendale, between the ages of 16-18, may make application for membership in the Goldendale Volunteer Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program.
2. The applicant must have or be in process of getting a legal drivers license prior to applying for a position in the Junior Program. If a drivers license is not obtained within 6 months of starting the program an applicant may be suspended from the program until one is obtained. Members of the Goldendale Fire Department Junior Program cannot progress into the advanced level of the program without a legal driver's license.
3. 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 while in the Junior Program. A failing grade (F) in any one subject is not acceptable and may result in suspension from the program.
4. The applicant must complete an application. Included with the application is a parental consent form that must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. The application must be approved by the GFD Chief and Officers.

## B. GENERAL RULES

1. The general standard of conduct is to act in the manner of a professional. Junior Firefighters represent the Goldendale Fire Department, and are expected to be courteous and respectful to fellow Firefighters, emergency service personnel and all citizens served. The Goldendale Fire Department will not tolerate vulgar, offensive, discriminatory or threatening language or gestures at any time. Junior Firefighters may not wear any article of clothing that, in the opinion of a fire Officer, would be offensive to the public served. Violations will result in disciplinary action, and may include suspension.
2. The Goldendale Fire Department maintains a "zero tolerance" policy with respect to drug and alcohol use and violation of public laws. Any possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, on Goldendale Fire Department premises or apparatus, emergency scene, training drill, official function, or while in Goldendale Fire Department uniform will result in immediate and permanent suspension from the Goldendale Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program. Junior Firefighters may not smoke on Goldendale Fire Department premises or apparatus, emergency scene, training drill, official function, or while in Goldendale Fire Department uniform. Any warrant or conviction for a crime will result in a review of the circumstances by the Goldendale Fire Department Officers, and may result in disciplinary action, including permanent suspension.
3. Junior Firefighters may not use or display emergency identification on their personal vehicle (e.g., green lights and fire department plates). Junior Firefighters may not wear issued clothing/personal protection equipment (PPE) identifying

them as a Goldendale Fire Department Firefighter, except for official purposes only or as directed by a GFD Officer or their designee. Junior Firefighters will not be issued identification cards.

4. Junior Firefighters may not enter a Goldendale Fire Department Fire Station unless a full member of the department is present, and then only for official business (emergency response, training drill, department meeting or work detail). Junior Fire fighters will not be given building keys or door lock combinations. Junior Firefighters may not bring friends into a fire station or permit them to board fire apparatus unless given permission by a GFD Officer.
5. Junior Firefighters must leave the fire hall no more than 30 minutes following completion of the emergency call, training drill, department meeting or work detail.
6. Junior Firefighters are not permitted to attend overnight stand-by details (They will be released from a stand-by or emergency scene no later than 10:00 PM)
7. Junior Firefighters may not borrow Goldendale Fire Department equipment for personal use.
8. Junior Firefighters may not operate Goldendale Fire Department vehicles unless during training and only with direct supervision of a GFD Officer or their designee.
9. Power tools, hydraulic and pressurized air operated equipment, and cutting devices such as chain saws/roof saws, air bags and Hurst Tools are to be operated only under the direct supervision of a fire Officer or his/her designee. Power tool use is for training purposes only. A Junior Firefighter may not operate any power tool, hydraulic or pressurized air operated equipment or cutting device at an emergency scene. The Junior Firefighter when operating any power tool, hydraulic or pressurized air operated equipment cutting device, must wear full protective gear, including gloves and eye covering.
10. Junior Firefighters may climb Goldendale Fire Department ground ladders or aerial ladder during training or at an emergency scene after a fire has been extinguished. Any ladder use by Junior Firefighters must be under the direct supervision of a Goldendale Fire Department Officer or their designee. Full protective gear must be worn at all times.
11. Before using another department's equipment, Junior Firefighters must get consent from the other department and a GFD Officer.
12. Junior Firefighters are not to participate in any Goldendale Fire Department activity, including emergencies, during school hours. Junior Firefighters are not to leave school, or a school sponsored activity, for a GFD emergency call or training. Junior Firefighters are not to respond to any alarm dispatched after 9:30 PM on a school night (Sunday-Thursday during school year).
13. Junior Firefighters will be issued GFD pagers and be allowed to report to the fire hall when they have (1) learned all knowledge in the basic level and (2) passed the Junior Firefighter Basic Level Skills Test. The skills test will be on all Firefighter skills learned in the Basic Level of the Junior Program. The pagers will be issued at the convenience of the Supply Chief.

14. Junior Firefighters must attend a minimum of 75% of all training drills and meetings conducted each year. Failure to do so may result in suspension from the program.
15. Junior Firefighters are responsible for the care of all Goldendale Fire Department gear issued to them, and are financially responsible for loss or damage from other than official use as a Junior Firefighter with the Goldendale Fire Department.
16. No Firefighter is to ride on a truck step. All Firefighters are to be seated in the truck cab when the apparatus is in motion. Junior Firefighters may not repack hose from the hose bed if the apparatus is in motion.
17. All Firefighters including Junior Firefighters are to report directly to the station at all times. Junior Firefighters are not to drive personal vehicles to any scene unless directed to by a Goldendale Fire Department Officer.
18. Report any injury to a Goldendale Fire Department Fire Officer or Safety Officer.
19. No Firefighter may accept monetary payment or gifts for services rendered as a 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 consider a voluntary contribution to the Goldendale Fire Department.
20. For the work that Junior members of the GFD undertake they will receive some compensation such as a fixed amount per call or training that they attend & if they wish to receive retirement from the City of Goldendale, Juniors must pay a set fee per year (\$20).
21. All Junior Firefighters will maintain a journal of all GFD activities. All trainings, meetings, emergency calls and all other GFD events will be recorded in the journal by each Junior Firefighter.

### C. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1. Junior Firefighters may respond to emergency alarms, except as outlined in 2 - 5 below. Junior Firefighters should respond to the fire hall or as directed by a GFD Officer via a standing assignment order. Junior Firefighters may respond on certain Goldendale Fire Department apparatus but only if seats cannot be filled by full members of the Goldendale Fire Department (Junior Firefighters will relinquish seats to senior Firefighters as needed). Junior Firefighters are under the command of Goldendale Fire Department Fire Officers from the time of their arrival at the station or emergency scene until released from duty by a GFD Officer. If no Officer is aboard an apparatus that a Junior Firefighter will be riding in, they are under the command of the engineer (driver) of the apparatus until reassigned to a Goldendale Fire Department Fire Officer. No Firefighter is to leave an emergency scene without the knowledge and consent of a Goldendale Fire Department Officer.
2. Junior Firefighters may not respond to 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).

3. Junior Firefighters are not to respond to a mutual aid alarm outside of the Goldendale Fire Department Jurisdiction unless directed by a Goldendale Fire Department Officer.
4. Prior to responding to alarms, the Junior Firefighter must be trained to the advanced level of the Junior Firefighter Program. Among other items, this advanced level requires that the Junior Firefighter must demonstrate proficiency in the use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment. Use of SCBA equipment, by Junior Firefighters at an emergency scene, is reserved for defensive/escape purposes only.
5. Junior Firefighters are not to respond to an emergency call on the first apparatus to leave the fire hall. They are only allowed to respond to an emergency call on secondary response vehicles and only with the verbal authorization of a GFD Officer. If no Officer can be contacted by radio to ask for authorization then the Junior Firefighter cannot respond to the scene of the emergency.
6. Firefighters must wear all personal protective equipment (PPE) while riding on the apparatus and at an emergency scene. All Firefighters must have all of their PPE on before boarding an apparatus.
7. Under no circumstances is a Junior Firefighter to enter a burning structure, confined space, underground area or any area subject to a collapse hazard at any time. Once a fire has been brought under control, and the building determined to be structurally sound, the Junior Firefighter may enter the building if accompanied at all times by a Goldendale Fire Department Officer or their designee. A Junior Firefighter may operate exterior hose lines under the direction of a GFD Officer or their designee. Junior Firefighters must remain well clear of a motor vehicle fire or other type of fire presenting exposure to flammable liquids or hazardous materials unless authorized by a GFD Officer and under direct supervision of a GFD Officer or his/her designee.
8. At an emergency scene, a Junior Firefighter may not work from a roof or other elevated position without the direct supervision of a GFD Officer or their designee. At an emergency scene, a Junior Firefighter may not operate any power tool, hydraulic operated equipment or cutting device.
9. All orders received from a fire Officer are to be obeyed and executed completely. If due to safety concerns or for any other reason (see 10 below) the Junior Firefighter is unable to complete an assigned task, the issuing the order, or another Officer in their absence, should be immediately notified by the Junior Firefighter who received the order.
10. If a Junior Firefighter receives an order from another member of the Goldendale Fire Department or any other department where carrying out that order would put the Junior Firefighter in violation of any guidelines in this document it is the duty of the Junior Firefighter to inform the Officer or Firefighter of their status as a Junior Firefighter, the limitations placed on Junior Firefighters and also to tell them that they cannot and will not carry out the order.
11. At an emergency alarm involving downed power lines or gas leak, the Junior Firefighter must remain aboard the apparatus until the area of operation for the Junior Firefighter is determined to be safe by a Goldendale Fire Department Fire Officer.

12. If assisting with directing traffic, the Junior Firefighter must wear a reflective vest and reflective striped turnout coat. In the evening hours, the Firefighter must make use of a flashlight. The Junior Firefighter must operate only in an area within sight of fire apparatus and/or a police vehicle displaying flashing warning lights. The Junior Firefighter is not to direct traffic on a divided highway or in snow and/or ice conditions that may impair motor vehicle control. When assisting with traffic control or crowd control, the instructions of a police Officer are to take precedence.
13. Junior Firefighters are not to 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, condition of a home interior or fire fighting technique. All public inquiries are to be referred to the Officer in charge (OIC) or the Chief of the Goldendale Fire Department. 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 may in no way indicate suspicion of wrongdoing on the part of the property owner.
14. 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. Goldendale Fire Department Firefighters are expected to demonstrate the utmost respect and compassion for these individuals in both their words and actions.
15. Items found at an emergency scene are not to be touched or moved from their position whenever possible. If a crime has occurred at the emergency scene an investigator will need as much of the crime scene intact as possible.
16. Valuables found at an emergency scene are to be immediately turned over to a Goldendale Fire Department OIC, Officer or police Officer. Theft by a Junior Firefighter will result in an immediate suspension from the Junior Firefighter Program and the Goldendale Police Department will be notified.
17. Junior Firefighters are not to have any direct contact with an injured person or dead body unless properly certified (First Responder, EMT or Paramedic), and then only at the direction of the Goldendale Fire Department Officer or Emergency Management Services (EMS) crew chief. Report any accidental contact with blood or other bodily fluid to a Goldendale Fire Department OIC, Officer or Safety Officer immediately, so that medical treatment can be initiated promptly.