

**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](http://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](http://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