

Big Sandy Fire Protection District/Simla Volunteer Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program Guidelines

The Junior Firefighter Program was instituted by the Big Sandy Fire Protection District (Big Sandy FPD)/Simla Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) as a training program for young men and women, aged 14-18, who 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 become a full member of the Big Sandy Fire Protection District (Big Sandy FPD)/Simla Volunteer Fire Department upon successful completion of the Junior Firefighter program.

As a Junior Firefighter, members may serve in a support role for the senior firefighters at actual emergencies as a supplement to a formal training program. The Junior Firefighters attend monthly training drills with the full Department. A Big Sandy FPD /SVFD fire officer serves as the Junior Firefighter training officer, and he is the primary contact person for the Junior Firefighter. Those selected are expected to act in a mature manner and commit to a demanding, long-term program.

In both training sessions and actual emergency situations, the safety of the Junior Firefighter is of paramount concern to the Department. As such, the activities of the Junior Firefighters are limited in scope and the fire officers closely supervise them. 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 interior firefighters, 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.

Due to the inherent dangers of firefighting, strict rules of conduct and tight procedural standards have been 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 Big Sandy FPD /SVFD fire and administrative officers are available to discuss any questions.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Any resident of the Big Sandy Fire Protection District/Simla Volunteer Fire Department, between the ages of 14-18, may make application for membership in the Big Sandy Fire Protection District/Simla Volunteer Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program.
2. 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.
3. The applicant must complete an application, and a parental consent form that must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. The application must be approved by the Big Sandy FPD /SVFD Chief, Officers and Big Sandy FPD /SVFD Junior Firefighter training officer.

4. A medical authorization from must be completed.
5. The applicant must be able to pass a police background which will be performed by the Big Sandy FPD/SVFD.
6. The applicant must provide character references from two teachers.
7. The applicant must be physically able to perform the duties required of a Junior Fire Fighter.
8. The applicant must be able to follow strict orders.

General Rules

1. The general standard of conduct is to act in the manner of a professional. Junior Firefighters represent the Big Sandy FPD/SVFD, and are expected to be courteous and respectful to fellow firefighters and emergency service personnel and all citizens served. The Big Sandy FPD/SVFD 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 Big Sandy FPD/SVFD 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 Big Sandy FPD/SVFD premises or apparatus, emergency scene, training drill, official function, or while in Big Sandy FPD/SVFD uniform will result in immediate and permanent suspension from the Big Sandy FPD/SVFD Junior Firefighter Program. Junior Firefighters may not smoke on Big Sandy FPD/SVFD premises or apparatus, emergency scene, training drill, official function, or while in Big Sandy FPD/SVFD uniform. Any arrest or conviction for a crime will result in a review of the circumstances by the Big Sandy FPD/SVFD Chief and 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., red lights and fire department plates). Junior Firefighters may not wear clothing identifying them as a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD firefighter, except assigned protective gear, uniforms or logo shirts/hats worn for official purposes only.
4. Junior Firefighters are required to attend monthly business and Junior Fire training meetings and are eligible to attend monthly fire training meetings and any event held by Big Sandy FPD/SVFD.
5. Junior Firefighters may not enter a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire station unless a senior member of the department is present, and then only for official business (emergency response, training drill, department meeting or work detail). Junior Firefighters will not be given building keys or door lock combinations. Junior Firefighters may not bring friends into a fire station or permit them to be aboard fire apparatus.
6. Junior Firefighters must leave the station no more than 30 minutes following completion of the emergency response, training drill, department meeting or work detail.
7. Junior Firefighters are not permitted to attend overnight stand-by details (will be released from a stand-by not later than 9:30 PM)
8. Junior Firefighters are not permitted to accompany Big Sandy FPD/SVFD firefighters covering the station of another fire department.
9. Junior Firefighters may not borrow Big Sandy FPD/SVFD equipment for personal use.
10. Junior Firefighters may not operate Big Sandy FPD/SVFD vehicles.

11. Power tools, hydraulic and pressurized air operated equipment, and cutting devices such as chain saws/roof saws, air bags and extrication tools are to be operated only under the direct supervision of a fire officer or his/her designee. A Junior Firefighter must be at least 14 years old to operate any of this equipment. 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. Full protective gear, including gloves and eye covering, must be worn by the Junior Firefighter when operating any power tool, hydraulic or pressurized air operated equipment, or cutting device.
12. Junior Firefighters may climb Big Sandy FPD/SVFD ground ladders for training purposes only. Any ladder use must be under the direct supervision of a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer or his/her designee. A ladder belt or safety harness and full protective gear must be worn at all times. Ladders of another fire department may not be used by the Junior Firefighter without the consent of a fire officer from the other department and a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer.
13. Junior Firefighters are not to participate in any Big Sandy FPD/SVFD activity, including emergencies, during school hours. Junior Firefighters are not to leave school, or a school sponsored activity, for an emergency response. Junior Firefighters are not to respond to any alarm dispatched after 9:30 PM on a school night. Junior Firefighters will be assigned pagers or radios but strict guidelines for the use of the radios will be followed.
14. Junior Firefighters must attend a minimum of 30% of training drills or meetings conducted each year. Junior Firefighters are not required to respond to emergency calls.
15. Junior Firefighters may assist with regular maintenance of station facilities, equipment, and apparatus.
16. Junior Firefighters
17. Junior Firefighters are responsible for the care of all Big Sandy FPD/SVFD gear issued to them, and are financially responsible for loss or damage from other than official use as a Junior Firefighter.
18. Junior Firefighters may not fill SCBA air bottles, and are to remain clear of the filling area when air bottles are being filled.
19. 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.
20. Junior Firefighters are to report directly to the station at all times. Junior Firefighters are not to drive personal vehicles to any scene.
21. Report any injury to a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer or safety officer.
22. Firefighters may not 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 Big Sandy FPD/SVFD.

Emergency Response

1. Junior Firefighters may respond to emergency alarms, except as outlined in (2) below. Junior Firefighters should respond to the fire house. Junior Firefighters may respond on Big Sandy FPD/SVFD apparatus if seats are available and will relinquish seats to senior firefighters as needed. Junior Firefighters may not respond to an incident in the first initial attack vehicle or

- apparatus arriving on the incident scene. Junior Firefighters are under the command of Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officers from the time of their arrival at the station or emergency scene until released from duty by a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer. If no officer is aboard the apparatus, the Junior Firefighter will be under the command of the driver until reassigned to a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer. Firefighters are not to leave an emergency scene without the knowledge and consent of a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer (each firefighter is to speak with a fire officer directly, not via a third party).
2. Junior Firefighters will not be allowed to be actively or directly involved in the following incidents unless special circumstances are dictated:
 - a) May not participate on any entry team while at the scene of a working structure fire or while conducting a live fire burn training exercise.
 - b) May not participate on any entry team while at the scene of a vehicle fire.
 - c) May not participate in any offensive fire attack at natural ground cover fires.
 - d) May not participate at any hazardous material or pollution spill incident.
 - e) May not participate at any emergency rescue or emergency medical incident.
 - f) Will not be allowed to operate any emergency vehicle owned or used by the fire department on any public roadway.
 - g) Will not be authorized to have or install any emergency light or siren on their personal vehicle
 - h) Will not be allowed to respond to a mutual aid alarm outside of Simla Volunteer Fire Department Jurisdiction unless directed by a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD Officer.
 3. A Junior Firefighter can only participate at any vehicle accident after the patient or patients have been removed from the scene, they must stay in their assigned vehicle until such time.
 4. Prior to responding to alarms, the Junior Firefighter must be trained, and demonstrate proficiency in the use of SCBA equipment. Junior Firefighter use of SCBA equipment at an emergency scene is reserved for training purposes only. A Junior Firefighter is to remain well clear of an area of operation requiring use of Self Contained breathing air.
 5. Junior Firefighters must wear all protective gear while riding on the apparatus and at an emergency scene.
 6. Under no circumstances is a Junior Firefighter to enter a burning structure, confined space or underground area, or area subject to a collapse hazard. Once a fire has been brought under control, and the building determined to be structurally sound and free of hazardous materials and toxic gas, the Junior Firefighter may enter the building if accompanied at all times by a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer or his/her designee. This must be with the consent of the Fire Chief. Junior Firefighters may operate exterior hose lines under the direction of a fire officer or his/her designee. Junior Firefighters must remain well clear of a motor vehicle fire or other type fire presenting exposure to flammable liquids or hazardous materials. At an emergency scene, a Junior Firefighter may not climb a ladder or operate from a roof or other elevated position. At an emergency scene, a Junior Firefighter may not operate any power tool, hydraulic or pressurized air operated equipment, or cutting device or operate pump apparatus.
 7. Upon arrival at an emergency scene, a Junior Firefighter is not to enter a private dwelling or other structure with senior firefighters for investigation or emergency action of any type, unless expressly instructed to do so by the Fire Chief or a Fire Officer. Junior Firefighters are to remain with the apparatus or in close proximity to the incident commander, and await specific orders from a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer. If the Junior Firefighter receives

orders from an officer (or request from a firefighter) of another fire department, it is incumbent upon the Junior Firefighter to advise that officer or firefighter of his/her status as a Junior Firefighter and the limitations placed upon him/her. If ordered to enter a structure by a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer for any type of emergency action, the Junior Firefighter must be accompanied at all times by a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer or his/her designee.

8. All orders received from a fire officer are to be obeyed and executed completely. If, due to safety concerns or for any other reason, the Junior Firefighter is unable to complete an assigned task, the officer issuing the order, or another officer in his/her absence, should be immediately notified by the Junior Firefighter who received the order.
9. 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 Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer.
10. No Junior Firefighter may assist with traffic control or 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.
11. 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 incident commander or Big Sandy FPD/SVFD Chief. 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. 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. Big Sandy FPD/SVFD firefighters are expected to demonstrate the utmost of respect and compassion for these individuals in both their words and actions.
12. Valuables found at an emergency scene are to be immediately turned over to a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer or police officer. Theft by a Junior Firefighter will result in an immediate suspension from the Junior Firefighter Program and the Elbert County Sheriff's Department will be notified.
13. Junior Firefighters are not to have any direct contact with an injured person or dead body. Report any accidental contact with blood or other bodily fluid to a Big Sandy FPD/SVFD fire officer or safety officer immediately, so that medical treatment can be initiated promptly.