

The following is intended as **guideline information only**. It is open to interpretation and flexibility of the individual departments. Matters such as insurance and liability should be delegated by the individual departments or to be discussed with regional or provincial officials.

Direct Benefits

- Relax burden on full members, reduce strain on limited number of members
- Get a chance to experience first-hand what being a firefighter involves
- Promotes firefighting as an occupation
- Builds awareness of fire safety
- Instils values of the significance of interdependence and community pride, as well as the value of volunteering time and having an impact on the community.
- Promotes the importance of fire services

Process of Admission

This process should be similar to the steps taken to initiate a full firefighter within the department.

Suggestions:

- Review rules of conduct (i.e. no alcoholic beverages, must conduct themselves in an orderly manner)
- Sign waiver form releasing department of any liability should any injuries be sustained during activities as a junior firefighter.

Activities

By participating and helping out around the fire department and community, junior firefighters can greatly relieve the burden on senior members, and at the same time, gain valuable experience.

The only activity that is not permitted for junior firefighters to participate in is entering “hot spot” areas. These areas include live fires, areas made unsafe by fires (i.e. burnt structures), and any area deemed unsafe by the fire department.

Mostly all other activities of a firefighter, a junior firefighter should be able to observe, assist, or participate. A junior firefighters, in most cases, should be under the supervision of a senior member when participating in these activities.

Suggestions:

- Put out monthly newsletter
- Equipment maintenance
- Fundraising
 - Canada Day, Yard sale, Bingo
- Fire department parades
- Attend monthly meetings
- Attend work parties
- Roll hoses, operate portable pumps

- Social Nights (Dances)
- Clean Hall
- Fire call – in hall support
- Serve beverages, food at fires

Training

Many training activities can be beneficial to a junior firefighter both inside and out of a department, such as First Aid and First Responders training. However, training that is not directly related to established junior firefighter activities should be limited and possibly not allowed. Fire departments should stress that this type of training is to be used only by full members who are certified and legally allowed to use training, such as hot spot training or the operation of vehicles.

Junior firefighters may, however, observe in the training and participate while under the supervision of a senior member.

Suggestion:

- Junior firefighters may participate in a scaled down version of training, separate from regular training.

Regulations

There should be no “hot spot” involvement by the junior firefighters, as well as no involvement in activities that the department deems dangerous or unsafe. These terms should be defined in the written release (waiver) of liability/responsibility in case of injuries.

It should be considered that while junior firefighters do not participate in “unsafe” activities, certain minor injuries might be sustained while participating in regular activities. This case should be covered under the waiver form as well.

Bylaws and Code of Conduct

Junior firefighters should abide by all the rules that dictate the actions of a full member. Juniors may make their own Bylaws/Constitution to further govern themselves (i.e. must attend meetings, must have 20 hours of volunteer time).

Promotion Activities

Generating interest for a junior firefighting program may take some special promotion. Here are some activities that fire departments across Nova Scotia have used to spread awareness about their programs.

- Visiting schools, talking and giving demonstration
- Tours of station, open house days
- Word of mouth, approach possible interested youth
- Fire Education in schools, visits to fire hall