

## **SNYDER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE (SOG) 500**

#### **JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM**

##### **500.0.0 JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM**

- 500.0.1** Under the direction and control of the Snyder Volunteer Fire Department, the Snyder Fire Department will recognize Junior Firefighters (JFF) who have met the membership and training requirements for the program.
- 500.0.2** Said Jr. Firefighters will adhere to all regulations imposed on the Snyder Fire Department, including all applicable SOG's, Rules & Regulations, and similar governing documents and issues, as well as any additional such regulations for the Jr. Firefighter Program.
- 500.0.3** The Chief and Officers will be responsible for any disciplinary actions or issues related to the Jr. Firefighter Program.

##### **500.1.0 CONTROL AUTHORITY**

- 500.1.1** Ultimate authority resides with the City appointed Fire Chief. The Chief has determined that Jr. Firefighters will be limited in their scope of participation to those incidents where there is a considerable degree of safety, but otherwise, Jr. Firefighters will function in a similar role to regular firefighters with regards to activities and duties.

##### **500.2.0 SCOPE OF PARTICIPATION**

- 500.2.1 TRAINING.** Jr. Firefighters will be required to attend at least 50% of the regularly scheduled drills and meetings of the Snyder VFD. Additionally, it is desirable, that JFF attend rookie training when offered, to work towards eventual certification.

During training exercises, JFF will be supervised at all times. JFF may be allowed to enter training scenarios where smoke is present and where breathing air (SCBA) is required, when under the direct supervision of certified firefighters. JFF will be allowed to use the hydraulic rescue tools (Jaws), train on the tower ladder truck, participate in rope rescue training, and similar scenarios as long as they are under proper supervision.

**500.2.2 PREPAREDNESS.** JFF may participate in any station duties or truck repairs in the course of equipment and apparatus preparedness.

**500.2.3 RESTORATION.** JFF may participate in any duties related to restoring equipment or apparatus after fire and rescue incidents.

**500.2.4 RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS.** JFF may respond to fires in their personal vehicles, or if at the station, may ride on any apparatus. If responding in their personal vehicles, they will obey ALL traffic laws regardless of the type or urgency of the fire call. The department will strictly enforce a NO TOLERANCE policy regarding driving, and JFF will be dismissed after the first traffic violation witnessed and confirmed by department officers. At NO time will JFF be allowed to drive apparatus (trucks) however, may be permitted to drive department pickups and command vehicles at the authorization of the chief or IC for a particular incident only.

**500.2.5 ACTIVITIES AT INCIDENT SCENES.** JFF will be allowed to participate in all firefighting duties under the direct supervision of regular firefighters with the following standing exceptions.

**JFF will not enter any IDLH interior atmospheres.** If the firefighters are wearing air packs, the JFF will not enter. This applies to interior and exterior atmospheres. Once a scene has been controlled and operations shift from suppression to overhaul, JFF may enter structures when it is appropriate for other firefighters to enter without breathing air.

**JFF will not operate the hydraulic rescue tools or other power tools at actual rescue calls.** They may assist in other functions of the actual rescue.

**JFF will not operate power tools during fire fighting operations.** After the fire has been called under control by the IC, JFF may operate power tools during overhaul operations. This section includes gasoline exhaust fans, ventilation tools, saws, and the such like.

**JFF will get no closer than the apparatus on tank battery fires, fuel truck fires, and any other fire deemed to have an explosive hazard.** Again, after the fire has been called under control, JFF may approach the scene.

**JFF will not be the nozzle"man" on vehicle fires.** They may be the backukp.

**JFF will not enter any confined space unless cleared by the IC.**

**JFF will not enter or function within any collapse zone or explosive perimeter after one has been declared.**

**JFF will not be permitted to wear a Class-B or Class-A chemical suit for the purpose of dealing directly with Hazardous Materials.** This section does not prohibit participation in the decontamination zone, or wearing suits for other purposes.

**OTHER DANGEROUS SITUATIONS NOT OUTLINED ABOVE.** JFF may be restricted by officers or the IC when any situation is deemed dangerous above normal inherent dangers. In any instance where an officer or the IC determines that firefighters can not supervise or otherwise utilize the services of the JFF, they will be required to abstain from participation in that aspect of the operation.

### **500.3.0 OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES DUTIES AND RESTRICTIONS.**

**500.3.1 RADIO USAGE.** JFF will be allowed to utilize the FD radios at emergency scenes. JFF will not be issued radios by the department.

**500.3.2 EMERGENCY LIGHTING, FD MARKINGS, ETC.** Unless directly authorized by the chief, JFF will not mark their vehicles in any way to indicate they are a firefighter. They are not permitted to put on any type of light bar, regardless of color, nor any stickers or markings that are not approved by the Chief.

**500.3.3 HOURS OF PARTICIPATION.** JFF will be released from active fires as early as 10pm and no later than midnight and may not report to fires after midnight on any school day. EXCEPTION- If the JFF has a parent on the department who is present and gives permission, they may participate outside the hours described above.

**500.3.4 CONFIDENTIALITY.** JFF must understand that they can NOT release any details related to medical conditions or injuries of victims where persons are injured or killed. JFF, by law, can only discuss details with their immediate supervisor, the keeper of department records, or the Chief. They may speak to no one else including the police and other firefighters. There will be NO tolerance regarding violations of the confidentiality rules. ***Releasing any information is a violation of HIPAA laws, Federal Laws, and is punishable by up to 10 years in prison, and up to \$ 250,000 fine.*** SFD SOG's give additional details.

**500.3.4** JFF will be required to read and understand the Snyder Fire Department SOG's, Rules & Regulations, and other supporting documents that outline dress, conduct, etc., and will be held accountable to those standards.

### **500.4.0 INJURIES**

**500.4.1** Snyder Firefighters are subject to drug testing, in the event they are injured, cause injury to another, or are involved in an accident during official duties. JFF will also be subject to the same.

**500.4.2** JFF will immediately report to the Chief (or in his absence the Fire Marshal) any injury to themselves. This will be reported to the workers comp carrier so that if medical care is needed or future problems occur, it will have been documented. Obviously, any serious injury will require medical care, and will likewise be reported.

## **500.5.0 ISSUED EQUIPMENT**

**500.5.1** JFF will be issued the same basic equipment as regular firefighters with the exception of the radio(s). JFF will be issued RED helmets so that they can be easily recognizable at incident scenes. Firefighters will be required to maintain this equipment with reasonable wear and tear. Any problems or damage to equipment will be reported to the Chief who will evaluate the need for repairs and/or replacement.

JFF will have this equipment with them when reporting to fire and rescue calls, otherwise they do not need to report.

This equipment is owned by the City of Snyder, and upon termination, all equipment will be returned within 10 calendar days.

## **500.6.0 ADVANCEMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT**

**500.6.1** When the JFF reaches 18 years of age AND graduates high school or obtains a GED, they may roll over to the Snyder FD. They MAY be required to complete the 6 month probationary period, unless they have been a JFF for 6 months or longer. If not certified already, the individual will have 12 months to complete introductory certification. If in good standing, they will not be required to apply for membership, and will not have to meet with the credentials committee. They may request advancement from the JFF program to the SFD at the 1<sup>st</sup> possible meeting after turning 18 and graduating.

Depending upon the level of training and/or certification obtained during the JFF program, the firefighter may have certain privileges upon acceptance as a permanent member. For example, if the individual is

certified, they may begin making entry into structures and IDLH atmospheres. If trained in the use of the rescue tools, they may begin using them. These will be considered on a case by case basis. To avoid confusion on the fire ground, if they are certified, they will issued a yellow helmet instead of black, even if still on probation.