



Department of Community Affairs



Division of Fire Safety

Director's Office

To: Eligible Training Organizations
Municipal Fire Chiefs

From: Richard Mikutsky, Director / State Fire Marshal

Date: September 9, 2022

Subject: Junior Firefighter Auxiliary Training and Duties

This memo is being sent to all Eligible Training Organizations and Fire Departments to clear up any confusion on the ability of junior firefighters to fully participate in the Divisions' adopted Firefighter I Training Program.

On November 20, 2020, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2020, Chapter 126 (attached) which, among other changes, allows Junior Firefighters, 16 years of age or older, to fully participate in recruit firefighter training established by regulations adopted by the Commissioner of The Department of Community Affairs. This Act took effect immediately upon being signed into law. As regulations are already in place for recruit firefighter training, there is no need to delay the training of Junior Firefighters until additional regulations are promulgated.

Division of Fire Safety staff is currently in the final stages of preparing a rule proposal to implement all the changes to the law. The proposal will include regulations on what duties Junior Firefighters can perform at emergency incidents and training evolutions, other than the approved Recruit Firefighter Training Program which they are currently allowed to fully participate in.

The Division of Fire Safety looks forward to providing this new generation of firefighters an opportunity to fully participate in our approved Recruit Firefighter Training Program. If your training organization is not currently offering this training as permitted to Junior Firefighters, we ask that you seriously consider doing so. If you have any questions concerning this or any other training or certification matters, please feel free to reach out to our Training and Certification Unit at 609-633-6106.

Thank you for your continued support.