



PRINCE GEORGE FIRE AND EMS

Section: Operations

Page: 1 of 2

Section No: 2.19

Date: August 14, 2023

Title: Volunteers Driving Under the Age of 18

Authorized By:

I. Policy

The Prince George Fire and Emergency Services (PGFEMS) acknowledges the indispensable role that volunteers play in the success of our department. We are committed to providing the necessary training and support to ensure our volunteers can safely and effectively carry out their duties. This policy sets forth the restrictions and guidelines concerning the operation of non-emergency and emergency vehicles with emergency lights and sirens by volunteers under the age of 18. The policy is designed to maintain safety standards and promote responsible practices within our department and upholding the professional image of PGFEMS by ensuring that only qualified and experienced individuals operate emergency vehicles.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all volunteers under the age of 18 within the Prince George Fire and Emergency Services (PGFEMS). The policy establishes guidelines for their use of emergency vehicles, with or without emergency lights and sirens, in order to minimize risks to themselves, other volunteers, and the public.

III. Procedure

Volunteers under the age of 18 are prohibited from driving any PGFEMS emergency vehicles, whether or not they are equipped with emergency lights and sirens, irrespective of their experience, certification, or training.

A. Safety Considerations:

1. Operating emergency vehicles with emergency lights and sirens necessitates special skills and training, typically acquired through on-road experience.
2. Volunteers under the age of 18 have varying driving experiences and are likelier to be involved in accidents while operating emergency vehicles with emergency lights and sirens.
3. The use of emergency lights and sirens heightens the risk of accidents and demands that drivers exercise additional caution and attentiveness.

☐ This replaces page _____, Section _____, Dated _____

☐ This is a new page



PRINCE GEORGE FIRE AND EMS

Section: Operations

Page: 2 of 2

Section No: 2.19

Date: August 14, 2023

Title: Volunteers Driving Under the Age of 18

Authorized By:

IV. Alternative Roles and Responsibilities for Underage Volunteer.

The PGFEMS is committed to offering a variety of opportunities for all volunteers to contribute their skills and expertise while ensuring the safety of our members and the community. While volunteers under the age of 18 are prohibited from driving emergency vehicles, there are still numerous ways for them to be actively involved in the department. These may include:

1. Participating in training exercises as an observer or support role.
2. Assisting with equipment maintenance, inventory, and organization.
3. Engaging in community outreach and educational events.
4. Supporting administrative tasks and station duties.
- 5.

V. Responsibility

1. The PGFEMS Station Chiefs, leadership and all PGFEMS Department members are responsible for ensuring that all volunteers under the age of 18 are aware of this policy and comply with it.
2. The officers in charge of emergency vehicles are responsible for ensuring that only qualified and authorized individuals operate emergency vehicles with emergency lights and sirens.
3. All PGFEMS members, both career and volunteer, must be familiar with and adhere to this policy to maintain a safe and effective work environment.
4. The department shall ensure that all volunteers under the age of 18 are aware of this policy and comply with it.

VI. Consequences of Violating the Policy

- A. Volunteers who violate this policy may face the following consequences:
 1. Written or verbal reprimand.
 2. Suspension or revocation of driving privileges within the department.
 3. Additional training or remedial actions.
 4. Disciplinary action, up to and including termination from the department.
- B. The specific consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis, considering factors such as the severity of the violation and the volunteer's history of compliance with department policies.

☐ This replaces page _____, Section _____, Dated _____

☐ This is a new page