



Oregon
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)
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June 10, 1998
Revised: March 30, 2010

Toby Cole
Newport Fire Department
245 N.W. 10th Street
Newport, Oregon 97365

Dear Mr. Cole:

This letter is in response to your May 27 letter where you asked about Oregon OSHA's position concerning training minors, under the age of 18 years, in a fire service cadet program.

The Oregon rules for fire fighters do not specify age. [OAR 437-002-0182\(4\)\(a\)](#) requires that all employees' physical capabilities be evaluated annually to determine their ability to perform assigned duties. [OAR 437-002-0182\(4\)\(b\)](#) prohibits employees with known medical conditions from engaging in fire suppression activities at emergency scenes (not including support activities) unless a physician certifies that they can safely perform the tasks. As with every employer, fire service providers are required to properly instruct and supervise every employee in safe operation of machinery, tools, equipment, process, or practice that they are authorized to use or apply.

However, the Bureau of Labor & Industry ([BOLI](#)) has identified 18 hazardous operations that minors are either prohibited or restricted from performing. Oregon's child labor law gives the Wage and Hour Commission authority to regulate working conditions for minors under age 18 working in Oregon. Oregon OSHA recognizes and supports BOLI's prohibitions and restrictions. The [Employment of Minor's Guide](#) outlines the 18 prohibited hazardous occupations or operations. These involve working with or around explosives; motor vehicles; mining; logging and sawmilling; power driven woodworking machines; radioactive substances; power driven hoisting apparatus; power driven metal working machines; slaughtering and meat processing; power driven bakery machines; power driven paper products machinery; brick and tile manufacturing; power saws and shears; wrecking, demolition, and ship breaking; roofing; excavation; and messenger service between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Contact BOLI for questions related to child labor laws.

For more information, contact us at 503-378-3272 or visit our Web site at www.orosha.org.

Sincerely,

Peggy Munsell, Manager
Standards & Technical Resources Section
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division