



Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

President Rick Steele
416 South Main Street - Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 838 – 4324

Chief Tom Bell
<http://www.gbgfire.org>

REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES, POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS OF 420 AND JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS OF THE GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement:

The 420 and Junior Firefighter Programs of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department have been established to increase the firefighting capabilities of this department by: Rebuilding the volunteer ranks, Enhancing departmental training, Improving public relations, and Bridging the generation gap and provide valuable training and expenses for 420 and Junior Firefighters to be successful in their futures.

Purpose:

The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department has a category of 420 Firefighter for boys and girls, 12-13 years of age and of Junior Firefighter(s) for young men and women aged 14-17 years. These young firefighters are a valuable to the fire service providing some support functions and activities to active firefighters while learning on the job to become regular active firefighters after turning 18 years of age. All kids under the age of 14 can be part of the 420 PROGRAM, but cannot be considered for JUNIOR status until they turn 14. The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department has adopted these rules and regulations to govern our 420 and Junior Emergency Services Program. Our goal is to prepare young people to be the safest and best trained responders and excepted expenses. These rules and regulations are to be strictly adhered to by all members of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Expectations of 420 and Junior Firefighters:

All 420 and Junior firefighters shall be required to read these guidelines, subscribe to them and acknowledge they are aware of all aspects of 420 and Junior firefighting. Each junior member shall be required to learn, understand, and follow all applicable policies of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department as well as the individual company policies. 420 and Junior firefighters will also learn, understand and abide by all applicable child labor laws as established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. 420 firefighters shall assist all regular senior firefighters and participate in performing appropriate duties at permitted responses, training sessions, work details, and fundraising events.

Benefits of 420 and Junior Firefighters:

All 420 and Junior firefighters shall be offered exceptional expenses and training opportunities at company level drills and training sessions. All training sessions shall be cleared by the Chief.

Hours Allowed 420 and Junior Firefighters:

420 firefighters (ages 12 & 13) shall be permitted to gather at the stations in approved areas as follows: never before school and after 7pm during school days. (not after 9pm on non-school days). Junior firefighters shall be permitted to gather at the stations in approved areas as follows: Child labor laws state: 14-15 year old cannot be “employed” before 7am and after 7pm during school days. (not after 9pm on non-school days). Child labor law states: 16-17 year olds cannot be “employed” before 6am and after Midnight during school days. (not after 1am on non-school days). No 420 or Junior member shall be at a station for any reason during regular school hours.

School Requirements and Grades:

All 420 and Junior firefighters are required to provide a copy of their regular school report card to their fire department advisor and/or to the chief within two (2) weeks after receiving such report cards. All 420 and Junior firefighters are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0, or a “C” average. Anyone who receives a grade below a 2.0, a failing grade, or an incomplete grade for any class shall be required to take an automatic temporary leave of absence from his or her firefighter duties. He or she shall not be permitted to attend any fire department functions nor shall he or she be permitted at the station until such time as he or she can prove that the grade or class has been improved. Proof of improvement by the form of a subsequent report card or written letter from the course instructor shall be required.

Application, Clearances, and Meetings:

All 420 and Junior Firefighter Applicants (ages 12 – 17) must fill out the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Junior application. 420 members (ages 12 – 13) will not voted into the Company. Juniors (ages 14 – 17) will be voted on at his/her company’s regular monthly meeting. All Junior Members, upon reaching your 17th birthday, are required to apply for their clearances. Junior firefighters are allowed to attend both department and company level meetings, but shall NOT have voting rights. Junior firefighters may sit and listen, but can be asked to remove themselves at any time by the President, the Fire Chief, or any other senior member during discussions that may not be appropriate for Junior members.

Code of Conduct and Responsibility:

All 420 and Junior firefighters are required to maintain a professional appearance, and are responsible for their actions at all times while at the station, at training sessions, at emergency calls, and within the community. Each member shall properly use all property, equipment, buildings, and assets of this department the same as you would at home. All members shall have the duty and be bound by these policies to report any and all misconduct, willful destruction, theft, damages or other inappropriate behavior of any firefighter, 420, or Junior Firefighter through the proper chain of command. Remember: being accepted to 420 or Junior membership is a *privilege* granted to those who wish to serve and protect the community. The 420 or Junior will be directly supervised by the fire department "420/Junior Coordinator", and a 420/Junior committee made up of a designated member(s) from each company to act as a "liaison". 420 and Junior members shall follow the established chain of command and work with their designated liaison and department advisor. 420 and Junior members shall be respectful to all members and the public. Officers shall be addressed by their titles. 420 and Junior members will be on their best behavior and be respectful while representing this department. It shall be left to the discretion of each individual Company and/or Captain to allow 420 / Junior members at the station unattended and whether or not they will be given a key to the station. Once a junior becomes 16 years of age, such privileges may be provided to be unsupervised in-station and whether a key shall be given to the station.

Emergency Response:

AT NO TIME ARE 420 FIREFIGHTERS PERMITTED TO RESPOND TO ANY EMERGENCY RESPONSE! Junior firefighters may respond to emergency calls to the extent permitted by these policies and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania child labor laws listed in your JUNIOR EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAM COMPLIANCE MANUAL. Junior firefighters must ride at all times within the closed cab of any fire apparatus. All junior members must be seated and belted at all times. All juniors are permitted to ride on apparatus during emergency/non-emergency response only if there are open belted seats on the apparatus. SENIOR MEMBERS have priority seating even if they are from another company. SENIOR MEMBERS will instruct juniors where they may sit on a responding fire apparatus. Preferably in a seat without an SCBA. Junior members 14-15 shall only respond from their assigned station. Juniors are highly discouraged to respond to alarms in their POV. Junior members must report and receive permission to leave the fire scene by the company line officer, officer in charge, and/or the fire chief.

Personal Protective Equipment:

420 firefighters are NOT required to be issued any firefighting equipment. If extra gear is available, said gear MAY be issued to an 420 member to be worn at training or observational activities. The 420's gear may be revoked if needed by a Junior or Senior firefighter. Junior firefighters will be issued turnout gear. All junior members must wear a BLUE colored helmet at all emergency calls and training sessions and are to NEVER wear any other colored helmet. The BLUE helmet color is universal to most Fire Companies and Departments around us indicating junior firefighter status. Proper protective equipment/gear is required to be used for all calls at all times and during training sessions. All junior firefighters MUST don full protective bunker gear BEFORE boarding any piece of fire apparatus. Anytime a junior firefighter is operating on or near a public roadway, they MUST also be required to wear a fluorescent traffic safety vest in addition to their turnout gear – NO EXCEPTIONS. All junior firefighters shall be responsible for keeping their issued gear in good repair and properly laundered. Alerting minitors and pagers may be issued as available, but may be recalled if a senior firefighter is in need of such equipment. All protective gear and equipment issued to members remains the property of The Greensburg Fire Department and/or its Relief Association and must be returned in good repair and clean if membership is terminated for any reason or upon demand. No firefighting equipment is allowed to be taken into the schools for any reason without proper permission.

Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

420 / Junior Emergency Services Program Contact List:

City of Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

<http://www.gbgfire.org>

For more information contact:

Greensburg Fire Department 420 /Jr. Program:

Junior Emergency Services Program Coordinator: Robert Giles – 724-244-6860

For help with the City Application:

City of Greensburg Recruitment Contact: Jeff Henry – 724 - 640 - 0872

Company Contacts:

Station #1:	6 McLaughlin Drive Bob Rhody – 724-244-9789
Station #2:	137 N. Pennsylvania Avenue Pierre DeFelice – 724-689-5454
Station #3:	304 Alexander Avenue Jeff Swartz – 724-875-3869
Station #6:	542 West Otterman Street Robert Giles – 724-244-6860
Station #7:	625 East Pittsburgh Street Rob Baker – 412-610-3200
Station #8:	900 Highland Avenue Jeff Henry – 724-640-0872

Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department & Companies

420 / Junior Firefighters – Rules and Regulations

- 1) 420 / Junior Firefighters shall follow and abide by all Federal, State, and Local Laws
- 2) 420 / Junior Firefighters shall follow and abide by all statutes as written under the Child Labor Law, Section A-177 of the PA Department of Labor and Industry. [See attached Pa. Junior Firefighter booklet]
- 3) 420 / Junior Firefighters shall follow and abide by all Standard Operating Guidelines and By-Laws of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department and their requested/assigned company.
- 4) All 420 / Junior Firefighters must complete the entire 420/Junior Firefighter/Parent Documents and New Member Application Packets, and pass a physical.
- 5) Usage and possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs on Greensburg Fire Department or Company grounds or at any Greensburg Fire Company sanctioned function shall result in discipline.
- 6) All Greensburg Fire Company Officers and Members shall provide recognize rules and regulations that govern minors and their safety.
- 7) 420 / Junior Members are not permitted to participate in activities that are prohibited. 420 / Junior Firefighters must recognize when they have been asked to perform something not appropriate, they shall respectfully decline and report this to the Company or Commanding Officer.
- 8) 420 / Junior Firefighters shall be under the Company Officer's direction of the "Company 420 / Junior Advisory Group" made up from 1-Line Officer; 1-Board of Director; and 1-Regular Member.
- 9) All applicants to the 420 / Junior Firefighter Program shall meet the minimum standards set forth in the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department and Company By-Laws.

- 10) Applicants to the 420 / Junior Firefighter Program will be interviewed at a Greensburg Fire Station designee, with the Parent(s) or Guardian(s) present.
- 11) Junior Applicants shall be recommended to the Company at the next regular Greensburg Fire Company business meeting. If the majority of members present at the meeting accept the Applicant, then the Applicant shall become an official 420 Junior Firefighter on Probation.
- 12) 420 / Junior Firefighters do not have voting privileges nor are 420 / Junior Firefighters able to hold office within the Fire Company. Juniors may attend meetings, but may be asked to leave the room while certain Company issues are discussed.
- 13) Applicants to the 420 / Junior Firefighter program must successfully complete the “420 / Junior Orientation Program”. This program includes Greensburg Fire Company Policies and Procedures, Specific Building Rules and Policies, Apparatus Orientation, Command Structure, and a copy of the 420 / Junior Firefighter’s Laws.
- 14) All 420 / Junior Firefighters must ‘sign in and out’ on the 420 / Junior Firefighter Time Log sheet every time they enter their fire station. NO EXCEPTIONS
- 15) Only Greensburg Fire Company Officers may speak with the Media on Company Business. All 420 / Junior Firefighters will refer questions regarding all Greensburg Fire Company or Department inquiries to the most senior Officer present. 420 / Junior Firefighters are expected to represent the Greensburg Fire Company in the most professional and positive manner. It is always inappropriate to discuss internal matters of a Greensburg Fire Company or talk negatively about another Fire Department or another Fire Company.
- 16) Any injuries occurring during training and at an emergency call scene that are immediately reported to the Fire Company Captain as soon as possible for treatment and documentation.
- 17) 420 / Junior Firefighters must respond only to his/her station at any time of an emergency call, never directly to the scene as per Fire Company and Fire Department SOGs and Rules.
- 18) Junior Firefighters of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Company possessing a valid PA Driver’s license are NOT permitted to use any warning or emergency device or colored lights on his/her vehicle; this includes vehicle’s horn, when responding to the station.

- 19) All speed limits and traffic laws are to be strictly followed when responding to the station.
- 20) Junior Firefighters shall earn their position to ride on any fire apparatus during a call.

Status Level 1: Successful completion of written test on knowledge of a) PA Child Labor Laws knowledge of Greensburg Volunteer Fire Company By-Laws, and Standard Operating Guidelines, b) proper fire ground operation including scene safety, and basic apparatus knowledge by the Company Captain, and c) modules I and II of Essentials. This shall place a Junior Firefighter on the squad, utility, and/or salvage truck regarding emergencies.

Status Level 2: Successful completion of a) written/practical test on hydrant operations and proper use of all personal protective equipment and b) module III of Essentials. Basic knowledge of hand tools and appliances on all apparatus by the Company Captain. This shall place a Junior Firefighter on the Engine, Rescue and/or Aerial as a Support member regarding emergencies.

- 21) At no time will a 420 / Junior Firefighter respond with a mutual aid company or non-GVFD or Greensburg Fire Companies.
- 22) The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Company or Department is not responsible or liable for any moving violations or vehicle accidents/insurance by Firefighters while in route to the Station for an emergency call or training.
- 23) Failure to abide by these 420 / Junior Firefighter's Rules and Regulations, Greensburg Volunteer Fire Company By-Laws, or Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines shall result in discipline that may include suspension and possibly termination from the Greensburg Fire Company, and 420 / Junior Firefighter Program.
- 24) All 420 / Junior Firefighter shall maintain a minimum "C" average and NO "F's" and shall NOT QUIT SCHOOL. Otherwise, the 420 / Junior Firefighter shall be suspended until this paragraph is complied with. 420 / Junior Firefighters shall produce their grades to the "420 / Junior Advisor" at each report card period.
- 25) Junior Firefighters must wear issued BLUE HELMETS and full PPE at any permitted drill or call..... [NO EQUIPMENT – NO GO]

Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department & Companies

420 / Junior Firefighters – Operating Guidelines

- All Juniors reaching their 17th birthday are required to fill out all Fire Department clearances.
- All Juniors shall obtain WORKING PAPERS and provide them to the Fire Department from the school district prior to filling out city application.
- All kids under the age of 14 (age 12-13) can be part of the 420 program, but cannot be considered for JUNIOR status until they turn 14 years of age.
- 420's will not have or be issued full bunker gear.
- 14-17 year olds will have gear, boots, and LIGHT BLUE junior helmets provided by the GVFD.
- It shall be the discretion of each individual Company and/or Captain to make rules for 420 / Junior members at the station.
- Junior Firefighters who become 16 years old may be given the privilege to be at station unsupervised and/or be given a key as may be approved by Company/Captain.
- 420's (12-13 year old) cannot be at the station before 7am and after 7pm during school days (not after 9pm on non-school days).
- Child Labor Laws state: 14-15 year old cannot be "employed" before 7am and after 7pm during school days (not after 9pm on non-school days).
- Child labor law states: 16-17 year olds cannot be "employed" before 6am and after Midnight during school days (not after 1am on non-school days).
- 420 / Juniors will be able to attend city and company drills.
- All Juniors are permitted to ride on apparatus during emergency/non-emergency response only in there is room on the apparatus. SENIOR MEMBERS have priority seating even if they are from another company. At no time is a Junior Firefighter guaranteed a seat on any apparatus. A Junior Firefighter will relinquish his seat on any apparatus at the request of any Senior member.
- If all fire apparatus has responded to an emergency call, the 420 / Junior Firefighter will wait at the station until apparatus returns.

ALL 420'S / JUNIOR'S ARE FORBIDDEN FROM THE FOLLOWING:

1. Pilot or operate a water rescue vessel.
2. Operate an aerial device mounted on a fire apparatus.
3. Operate an elevator or participate in elevator rescue.
4. Perform rescue operations in a tunnel, shaft, or trench.
5. Participate in emergencies at fireworks plants, retailers, or in support of public safety for a public display.
6. Perform emergency operations in or around mines, strip mines, or quarries.
7. Participate in the response to incidents involving paint products.
8. Participate in the response to incidents involving radioactive substances.
9. Perform rooftop ventilation or any other work on any roof.
10. Operate acetylene torches, cutting or crushing equipment, or respond to structural collapse incidents.
11. Operate circular saws, band saws, guillotine shears, chain saws, reciprocating saws, wood chippers, and abrasive discs.
12. Use of rubber electrical gloves, insulated wire gloves, insulated wire cutters, or life nets.
13. Operate pumps of any fire vehicle at the scene of a fire.
14. Drive a truck, ambulance, or other official fire vehicle.
15. Enter a burning structure.
16. To leave school to answer an alarm or attend training session or detail without written permission.
17. To take any fire company issued firefighting equipment to school.
18. Shall not be assigned to lock/out tag/out assignments.

12 - 13 YEAR OLDS ARE FORBIDDEN FROM THE FOLLOWING:

420 Members are forbidden from participating in any emergency activities. They may attend and observe training or drills where there is fully controlled risks and hazards.

14 - 15 YEAR OLDS ARE FORBIDDEN FROM THE FOLLOWING:

1. Operate non-sections of highway open to the public for vehicular travel such as automobile accidents on or next to public roads.

2. Participate in any firefighting/rescue (emergency) activities.
3. Permitted to work requiring the use of ladders, scaffolds, or other substitutes.
4. Permitted on trucks, railcars, and conveyors for the loading or unloading of goods.
5. Operate high pressure hose lines other than at a drill with pressure greater than 150 PSI for water, 100 PSI for air, and 1000 PSI for hydraulic.
6. Ascend ladders except for training activities.
7. To sleep in the station bunkroom, except under special circumstances, and then only with the expressed permission of the fire chief.

DUTIES OF 420 / JUNIOR MEMBERS

- 420 / Junior members should make every effort to attend training sessions, work/service details and responses when permitted by child labor law and fire department/company guidelines.
- 420 / Junior members shall follow the established chain of command and work with their designated liaison and department advisor.
- 420 / Junior members can attend company meetings and department meetings, but will have no voting privileges or Officer duties.
- 420 / Junior members shall only respond from their assigned station.
- All Juniors shall don full protective bunker gear before boarding any piece of fire apparatus that is responding to a call unless otherwise instructed by company captain.
- All 420 / Junior members must be seated and seat belted in an enclosed vehicle.
- Junior members must report and receive permission to leave the fire scene by the officer in charge/ company captain/ fire chief.
- 420 / Junior members shall be respectful to all members and the public. Officers should be addressed by their titles.
- 420 / Junior members will be on their best behavior and be respectful while representing this department.
- Where 420 / junior firefighter rules do not prevail, fire department rules will prevail. This version of the 420 / Junior rules and regulations shall immediately supersede any and all versions prior.
- Failure by any member of the junior program to abide by these rules listed above will result in suspension and possible expulsion from the 420 / Junior program.
- All rules and regulations governing 420 / Juniors are subject to change at any time.



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Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department **420 & Junior Program Rules and Regulations**

I, _____ (*Members Name*) have received a copy of the rules and regulations set forth by The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department. I have read and understand the rules and regulations set forth by The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department regarding Explorer and Junior members. By my signature, I attest that I will follow these rules and regulations and understand the consequences if I do not abide by them.

Participant's Name

Participant's Signature

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date Signed

GVFD Officer/Witness Signature

If a 420 / Junior is under the age of 16, please sign below **IF** you permit your child: to be at the fire station past the normal hour of 7 pm up to and no later than 10 pm during school nights.

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature



Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

President James Buscaglio
416 South Main Street - Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 838 – 4324

Chief Tom Bell
<http://www.gbgfire.org>

Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department 420 Program **Participation Agreement & Waiver of Claims and Right to Sue**

I, _____ (Participants Parent/Guardian Name)
understand and agree that in exchange for my son's/daughter's participation with the
Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) and any of its activities, I agree to the
following:

- A. I hereby waive and will not pursue any claims, actions, lawsuits against the GVFD and its Relief Association, each of the GVFD six (6) Fire Companies, the City of Greensburg, and as against any or all of its Members and Officers.
- B. That in the event my child or I am injured while participating in the Greensburg Fire Department's training sessions, seminar(s), meeting(s), parade(s), activity (ies), youth firefighter station programs or demonstration(s), I cannot sue the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department and its Relief Association, each of the GVFD six (6) Fire Companies, the City of Greensburg, nor any of its Members and Officers. My child and I shall be able to make claim against any medical insurance company or provider that I (as a parent/guardian) may have.
- C. I assume any and all liability for any injuries or damages that may occur to my child during any training sessions, seminar(s), meeting(s), parade(s), activity (ies), youth firefighter station programs or demonstration(s) my child participates in with the GVFD, each of the GVFD six (6) Fire Companies, its Relief Association, or the City of Greensburg.

I understand and agree that I may at any time, on my son's/daughter's behalf, have him/her not attend until I determine for myself whether the activities are appropriate for my child from a physical, emotional, and/or any other standpoint.

I hereby sign on my own and my son's/daughter's behalf intending to be legally bound and agree to the terms above.

Participant's Name

Participant's Signature

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date Signed

GVFD Officer/Witness Signature