

## Explorer Policy

A-088

Modified Date: 3-22-2009

From the Boy Scout of America Explorer Handbook with modifications from Union Vale Fire District:

### Fire and Emergency Services Exploring: Safety Issues

There are some issues and hazards specific to Fire and Emergency Services Explorer programs that must be considered when organizing a post. These issues are fairly unique compared with other types of Explorer posts, being a direct result of the post's affiliation with the department and the potential for hazards.

Before engaging in any training activity or direct operational activities with the department, Exploring and/or department officials should investigate the legalities of Explorers participating in such activities. Most states have child labor laws that define what minors under the age of 18 may and may not participate in. Even though the individual may not be an actual member or employee of the department, these regulations may still apply. The following is a general list of guidelines that should be used for the formation of a post Explorer safety policy. As with any program, extremes of temperature, humidity, and other atmospheric conditions should be considered during any activity.

- 1) With Advisors present, Explorers may participate in Classroom Training; Monday Night Truck Checks; Fund Raising Activities, Parades, Work Details, Field Trips and Meetings.
- 2) With Advisors present and prior Board of Fire Commissioners approval, Explorers may participate in Drills (Explorer-Function Drills do not need to be pre-approved by Board as long as Advisors are present, for example Explorer Day at the Training Center)
- 3) If the event is not listed, Explorers may not participate in it.
- 4) Explorers may not participate in Calls.

All policies must fit with departmental regulations, Learning for Life regulations, and state laws. All of these issues should be resolved in the post bylaws before Fire and Emergency Services Explorer activities begin. If you have any questions about the safety of an activity not listed, contact your local Learning for Life office.

- Explorers may not be substituted for trained personnel.
- Explorers must be equipped with personal protective equipment that is appropriate for the activity being done.
- Explorers may be mobilized only as a post, with required leadership. Explorers are not on call as individuals.
- Explorers who ride on apparatus or other department vehicles must be seated and must wear a seat belt.
- Explorers may not drive department vehicles.
- Explorers may not climb aerial ladders.
- Explorers may not climb ground ladders that exceed 35 feet in length, or not supported against a structure.
- Explorers may not enter or perform ventilation procedures on a burning structure.
- Explorers may not use any tools or gloves on energized electrical equipment.
- Explorers may not operate cutting torches
- Explorers may not operate hydraulic rescue tools or equipment.
- Explorers may not handle life nets.
- **Exceptions:** Using an official training facility, the use of aerial ladders with the appropriate safety equipment, entering a controlled burn building, and operating hydraulic rescue equipment is approved.
- If there is an injury requiring Medical Treatment, the Family's Medical Insurance will be billed first, then the Boy Scout of America's Policy, then the Fire District's Policy. The Fire District should be notified of any and all injuries.