

June 10, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Cole:

This letter is in response to your May 27th letter in which you asked what OR-OSHA's position is concerning the training of minors, under the age of 18 years, in a fire service cadet program.

The only personnel restrictions in OAR437-002-0182, Subdivision L, Oregon Rules for Fire Fighters, are the same for all ages. OAR437-002-0182(4)(a) requires that all employees' physical capabilities be evaluated annually to determine their ability to perform assigned duties. OAR437-002-0182(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. OAR437-002-0223(3)(a), Subdivision N, Material Handling & Storage, which also is applicable, prohibits employees under 18 years of age from operating commercial or industrial type vehicles, forklifts and other similar kinds of vehicles (this would include engines, apparatus, trucks and other fire department vehicles).

The Bureau of Labor & Industry has identified eighteen hazardous operations that minors are either prohibited from performing or are restricted. OR-OSHA recognizes and supports BOLI's prohibitions and restrictions. The eighteen hazardous occupations are those involving explosives, motor vehicle operation, coal mining, logging and sawmilling, working around power driven woodworking machines, exposure to radioactive substances, working with power driven hoisting apparatus, working around power driven metal working machines, other kinds of mining, slaughtering and meat processing, working around power driven bakery machines, working around power driven paper products machinery, brick and tile manufacturing, operation of power saws and shears, operations involving wrecking, demolition and shipbreaking, roofing work, excavation work, and messenger service between 10:00 p.m and 5:00 a.m.

For further information contact Mike Mitchell at 378-3272. You are also invited to see the OR-OSHA pages on the Internet at the address located at the top of the page.

Sincerely,