

POLICY ON MINORS AS VOLUNTEERS

Brethren Disaster Ministries

The building trade is classified as a “dangerous occupation” by OSHA (Occupational Safety & Hazard Administration). Keeping in mind the safety of BDM volunteers under the age of 18, the guidelines below will be followed.

Youth and Youth Groups:

- Church of the Brethren youth groups and work teams may include youth with a minimum age of 15.
- The group must include adequate adult supervision – with a ratio of at least one adult (age 21 or older) for every four youth (same gender).
- Youth groups and work teams that include both male and female teens must be accompanied by both male and female adult advisors in proportionate numbers.

Families:

- Fourteen-year-olds may be allowed to participate if accompanied by a parent or court-appointed legal guardian.
- No children under 14 will be allowed to participate.

Projects outside of the United States:

- The minimum age requirement is 16. Volunteers aged 16 or 17 must be accompanied by a parent or court-appointed legal guardian.

Required Forms:

All volunteers under age 18 must turn in the following forms in order to be allowed to work on a disaster response project. These forms are to be presented to the Disaster Project Director upon arrival to the project. Copies should be mailed to the BDM office at least one week prior to volunteer’s arrival on site.

- An *Authorization of Consent to Emergency Care of Minor* form completed and signed by a parent or court-appointed legal guardian.
- A *Volunteer Registration/Release* form signed by both the minor volunteer and a parent or court-appointed legal guardian.

Restrictions:

- Persons under the age of 16 will **not** be allowed to work on scaffolding or extension ladders, any roof higher than one story, or any roof over a 4/12 pitch.
- Persons under the age of 16 will **not** be allowed to operate power tools, with the exception of drills and impact drivers. The volunteer must undergo an official one-on-one review with a Disaster Project Leader to test their ability. If that minor receives a passing review, this will be shared with the rest of the leaders on site that week. This is up to the discretion of the DPLs on site each week. If the minor returns for another week with different DPLs, they will need to be reviewed again.
- Persons 16-17 years of age must be checked and approved for power tool operation and safety by the Disaster Project Leader before being permitted to operate power tools.

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