



VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY WORKERS

If I am a volunteer emergency worker, am I eligible for workers compensation benefits and services if I am hurt while on duty?

Yes. The Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba (WCB) provides coverage for volunteer emergency workers. If you are a volunteer firefighter or ambulance attendant or are required to provide other aid in an emergency under *The Emergency Measures Act*, you are considered a worker and the provincial government or local authority for which you volunteer is considered your employer.

You have coverage if you are hurt:

- while on duty
- on the way to or from emergency duty or
- while taking part in official meetings or training exercises.

Individuals who fight fires under the *Fire Prevention Act* are also considered workers with WCB coverage. In this case, your employer is the provincial government.

What benefits am I eligible for?

You may be eligible for WCB benefits and services if you have a work-related injury or illness.

These may include:

- payment of allowable medical costs
- travel expenses for medical treatment
- wage loss benefits
- permanent partial impairment awards
- vocational rehabilitation
- benefits for dependants in the case of a fatality.

Who should fill out my claim form?

The provincial government or local authority you are volunteering for is considered your employer and is required to complete an injury report. You should complete a separate injury report, which can be submitted by mail, online or by calling the Claims Service Centre at 204-954-4321 or toll free 1-855-954-4321.

Do I need to report my regular employment income to the WCB?

If you are missing time from your regular employment, you must indicate any earnings you have on your WCB Injury Report. You should inform us of who your regular employer is, any part-time or self-employment income you generally earn, etc.



If your injury causes you to lose time from your regular job, with your permission, your regular employer will be contacted to provide the WCB with income information.

How will my wage loss benefits be calculated if I do not receive money for my duties?

Although you may not be paid as a volunteer emergency worker you are still covered by the *Workers Compensation Act*. If you are hurt while on duty and lose time from your regular job, you will receive wage loss benefits based on the greater of:

- your regular earnings, or
- Half of the Industrial Average Wage of Manitoba (IAW).

For 2020 the IAW is \$945.78 per week (based on \$49,180.56 per year); half of the IAW is \$472.89 per week (based on \$24,590.56 per year).

Even if you do not have regular employment income at the time you are injured, if wage loss benefits are authorized, you will receive benefits based on half of the IAW in effect in the year your injury occurs.

If you sustain a long term loss of earnings or are fatally injured while performing your duties as a volunteer emergency worker, you or your spouse will receive wage loss benefits based on either 90% of your net loss of earnings or 90% of the IAW, whichever is greater.

The WCB only provides wage loss benefits when a loss of earnings occurs as a result of an injury. Where there is no loss, the WCB does not pay wage loss benefits.

Do I have to draw sick benefits from my regular employer?

The WCB will pay you for the time you lose from your regular employer. You do not have to use your sick leave for a compensable injury.

Am I entitled to receive both sick leave from my regular employer and workers compensation benefits if I am injured while on duty as a volunteer emergency worker?

Yes, the WCB is the first payer for a compensable injury so we will include your lost wages from your regular employer even if you are collecting sick leave benefits.

Sample Calculations:



Please see the fact sheet called Sample Benefit Calculations for Volunteer Emergency Workers for some examples.

This publication is provided for general information. It is not intended to be legal advice, and should not be relied on as such. For more specific information, see *The Workers Compensation Act and Regulations and WCB Policies*. These documents are available on the WCB website at wcb.mb.ca.