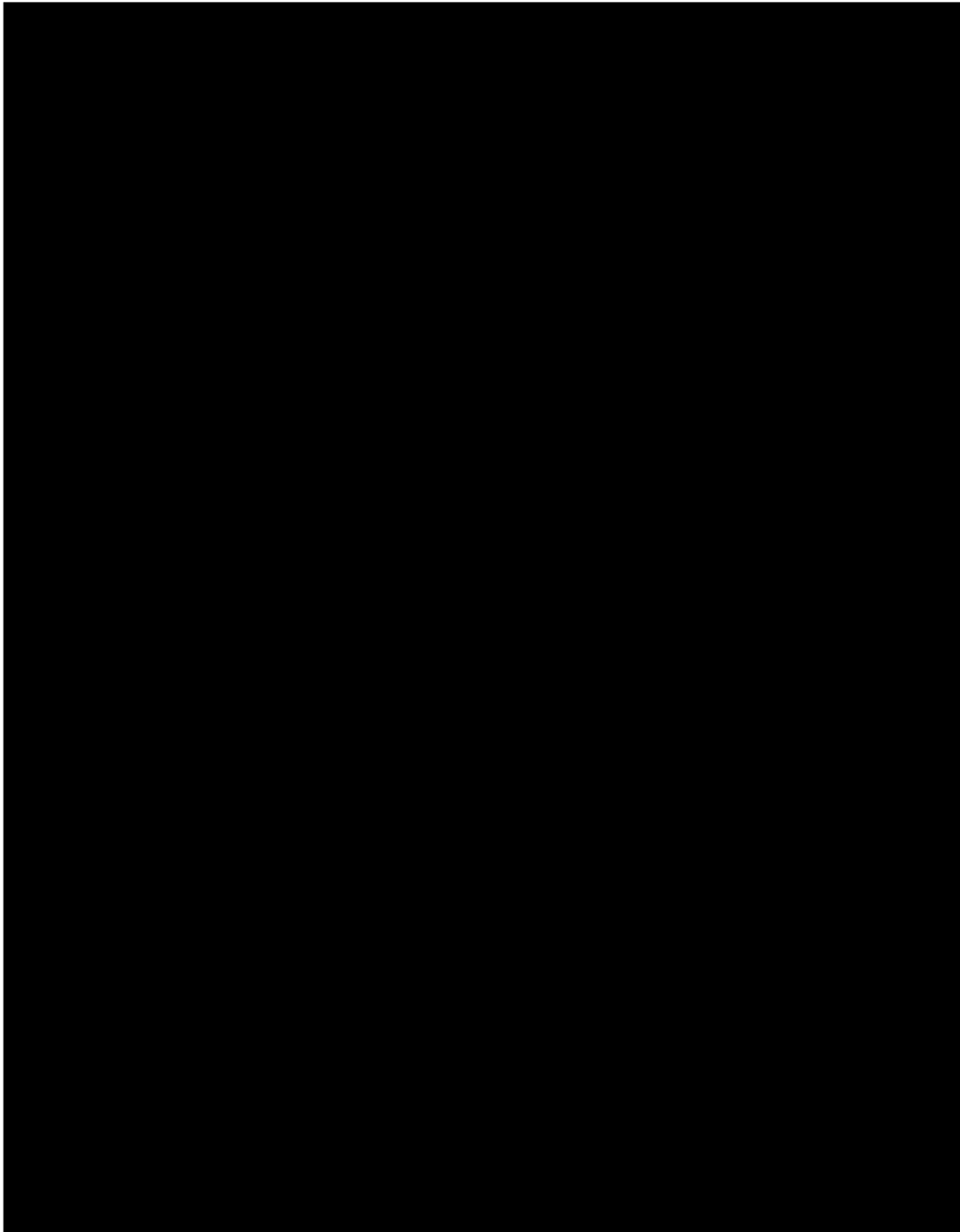


RELEVANT LINKS:



[Minn. Stat. § 176.011, subd. 9.](#)

7. Emergency response employees and volunteers

Emergency response volunteers, including paid on-call emergency volunteers, are defined by statute as “employees” for purposes of workers’ compensation. They are entitled to workers’ compensation benefits just like any other regular emergency response employee, if they’re registered with and work under the direction and control of the city.

RELEVANT LINKS:

[Minn. Stat. § 12.22, subd 2a.](#)

See also LMC information memo, [Providing Assistance in Emergencies Coverage and Liability Issues.](#)

See also LMC information memo, [Providing Assistance in Emergencies Coverage and Liability Issues.](#)

[Minn. Stat. § 176.021, subd. 9.](#)

[Minn. Stat. § 176.011, subd. 9 \(9\).](#)

See also Section I.C.9, [Statutory presumptions for certain diseases.](#)

If these volunteers are organized independently of the city and aren't employees for purposes of workers' compensation, they would not be entitled to benefits.

LMCIT automatically includes these volunteers under the city's workers' compensation coverage:

- Volunteer firefighters (including fire relief associations)
- Volunteer ambulance attendants
- Volunteer first responders
- Law enforcement assistance volunteers
- Emergency management volunteers
- Disaster assistance volunteers
- Civil defense volunteers

Injuries sustained while an emergency employee or volunteer is engaged in response activities is covered by workers' compensation. They are also covered from the time they respond to an emergency (e.g., a fire alarm, a pager, or other device) until the time they return home. Travel from home to the scene and directly home again is covered in an emergency. If they do not go straight home after responding to an emergency, the scope of employment ends at the emergency location. Also, travel from home to a meeting, drill, or other type of training is not covered.

Minnesota statute also excludes workers' compensation coverage for injuries sustained while any employee (not just emergency response employees) is participating in voluntary recreational programs sponsored by an employer, such as athletic events or picnics. The exception to this rule is if an employer requires its employees to attend these activities. In that case, a compensable injury would be covered.

Regarding emergency response volunteers, if they're unable to work in their normal occupation because they're injured while volunteering for the city, indemnity benefits are calculated as follows: If the volunteer only receives an expense reimbursement from the city, indemnity benefits are based on the greater of their regular employment earnings or an imputed full-time wage for a similar position. If the volunteer receives a wage from the city, benefits are based on the total wage plus the volunteer's regular employment earnings.

It's important to note that in Minnesota, there are also statutory presumptions for certain emergency response occupations. If certain diseases are contracted, they are presumed job-related and therefore, workers' compensation benefits may apply.