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## **Liability and Workers' Compensation Protections for Volunteers**

Qualified volunteers receive the same liability protections and workers' compensation coverage as state employees when they are training for or responding to a public health event or in an emergency. To be qualified for these protections, volunteers must serve at the request of and under the direction and control of a state agency, such as the Department of Health, they may not receive hourly or salary compensation from a state agency and additional criteria also may apply. Vermont law also provides certain liability protections for qualified partnerships, associations and businesses engaged in emergency management activities. The full text of these laws includes additional information about eligibility and the extent of the coverage and is available online as indicated below.

### Vermont Laws Relating to Volunteer Protections

#### **Definition of volunteer**

See, 3 V.S.A. Chapter 29 and, in particular, § 1101(b)(4) (Note that this section is specifically referenced in many of the other provisions listed below.):

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullchapter.cfm?Title=03&Chapter=029>

#### **Tort Claims – Liability Coverage and Immunity**

See, 12 VSA Chapter 189 and, in particular, § 5602(c):

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullchapter.cfm?Title=12&Chapter=189>

#### **Liability Protection for People who Donate their Property or Facilities**

See, 20 V.S.A. § 29:

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullsection.cfm?Title=20&Chapter=001&Section=00029>

#### **Liability Protection for Volunteers, Other Persons, Partnerships, Associations and Corporations Engaged in Emergency Management Activities**

See, 20 V.S.A. § 20:

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullsection.cfm?Title=20&Chapter=001&Section=00020>

#### **Compensation for Injury or Death**

See, 20 V.S.A. § 21:

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullsection.cfm?Title=20&Chapter=001&Section=00021>

#### **Workers' Compensation**

See, generally 21 V.S.A. Chapter 9:

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullchapter.cfm?Title=21&Chapter=009>

See, specific relevant sections:

*Definition of "Public Employment":*

See, 21 VSA § 601(12):

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullsection.cfm?Title=21&Chapter=009&Section=00601>

*Computation of Average Wage for Volunteers:*

See, 21 V.S.A. § 650(a):

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullsection.cfm?Title=21&Chapter=009&Section=00650>