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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 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. Volunteers may not receive hourly or salary compensation from a state agency. 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 definition is specifically referenced in many of the other provisions listed below.):
http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/03/029

Good Samaritan Law
See 12 VSA § 519
https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/12/023/00519

Tort Claims – Liability Coverage, Immunity and Indemnification
See, 12 V.S.A. Chapter 189: http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/12/189

Liability Protection for People who Donate their Property or Facilities
See, 20 V.S.A. § 29:
http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/20/001/00029

Liability Protection for Volunteers, Other Persons, Partnerships, Associations and Corporations Engaged in Emergency Management Activities
See, 20 V.S.A. § 20:
http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/20/001/00020

Compensation for Injury or Death
See, 20 V.S.A. § 21:
http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/20/001/00021

Workers’ Compensation
See, generally 21 V.S.A. Chapter 9: http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/21/009

See, specific relevant sections: Definition of “Public Employment”:
http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/21/009/00601

Computation of Average Wage for Volunteers:
See, 21 V.S.A. § 650(a):
http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/21/009/00650

State Insurance
http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/29/055