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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>

Tort Claims – Liability Coverage, Immunity and Indemnification

See, 12 VSA 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: See, 21 VSA § 601(12):

<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>