



Memo

Date: March 27, 2023

To: CAO's, Risk Managers and Claims Coordinators

From: Lang Kelly, Workers' Compensation Claims Manager, SCCWCT

Re: Volunteer Wage Limitation Notification Posting Requirement

All covered volunteers - **volunteer firefighters, volunteer rescue squad members, volunteer deputy sheriffs (reserve officers) and volunteer coroners** - must be made aware that in the event of a work-related injury where there is lost time from work with accompanying lost wages, the wages used to calculate their average weekly wage are limited to 37.5% of the State average weekly wage in the preceding fiscal year. **The wages earned due to employment other than as a volunteer are NOT considered in the calculation of the compensation rate.** For claims incurred in 2023, the compensation rate for qualified volunteers is \$258.96.

The attached poster should be copied and placed in locations where the above volunteers gather so that they will receive official notification of the wage limitation.

This information should be communicated to affected volunteers through annual training and new hire training. We recommend that newly covered volunteers receive written notice of the wage limitation in their training materials. The County should have the volunteer sign to acknowledge receiving the notification and to confirm their understanding of the policy. This signed document should be kept on file.

It is not uncommon for employment bulletins to be lost or removed over time. Failure to maintain current notifications can be costly for employers. Please verify periodically throughout the year that all locations where covered volunteers gather have the attached wage limitation poster prominently displayed. Please contact the SCCWCT at 1-800-922-6081 if you have any questions.

VOLUNTEERS

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF WAGE LIMITATION

NOTICE: Under the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Law, South Carolina General Statute 42-7-65, the average weekly wage used to calculate compensable workers' compensation benefits for **volunteer firefighters, volunteer rescue squad members, volunteer deputy sheriffs (reserve officers) and volunteer coroners** is limited to thirty-seven and one-half percent (37.5%) of the average weekly wage in the State for the preceding fiscal year.

The wages for these volunteers may not be increased as a basis for any computation of benefits because of employment other than as a volunteer.