



November 27, 2008

Registered Provincial Emergency Program Volunteers

Dear Volunteer:

In recent months the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) has received a number of enquiries from Public Safety Lifeline (PSL) volunteers regarding the level of Workers Compensation and liability coverage they are provided when working as PSL volunteers.

I would like to reassure all PSL volunteers – whether they be search and rescue, road rescue, emergency social services, emergency radio communications, PEP air or general service volunteers - that PEP does provide coverage when they are carrying out their valuable services. It is also important for PSL volunteers to know that PEP remains wholly committed to supporting all volunteers across the Public Safety Lifeline disciplines to ensure minimal risk or exposure and a high standard of care through training and other tools.

The attached document clarifies Workers Compensation coverage, liability insurance / coverage and the terms and conditions, including some commonly asked questions. I encourage you to read this carefully and consider all the information.

One of the goals of the Provincial Emergency Program is to empower volunteers and staff with knowledge that will assist them in identifying risks, implementing risk reduction strategies and in identifying unsafe work conditions. Safety is a shared responsibility, and involves an unwavering level of commitment from all involved, and if and when unsafe conditions are identified *all volunteers* have the right to refuse to perform that assignment. Please note that PEP is also committed to working with all our partner agencies - at all levels - to ensure that volunteers are not asked, nor are exposed to, conditions that may potentially put them at risk or undermine the WorkSafeBC and liability coverage PEP provides when working within their public safety lifeline disciplines.

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Again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing participation as a PEP Public Safety Lifeline volunteer. Your commitment, dedication and many contributions to your community and to the citizens and visitors of the Province of BC are truly appreciated. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact one of PEP's Regional Managers or myself at PEP Headquarters for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Bachop". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a stylized "Bachop".

Steve Bachop
Director of Management Services
and Programs
Provincial Emergency Program
250-952-4892