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Canadian Coast Guard Garde côtière canadienne



CCGA-National
CCGA-C&A
CCGA-Maritimes
CCGA -NL
CCGA-Québec
Royal Canadian Marine SAR
Coastal Nations CCGA

April 8, 2020

Dear Auxiliaries,

As you all know, we are facing unprecedented challenges in Canada and globally due to COVID-19, and the human risks posed by this dangerous virus.

As you are well aware, the Auxiliary insurance plan does not provide coverage for illness caused by a virus and would therefore not apply should someone become ill with COVID-19 as a result of responding to a SAR tasking, or other authorized activity under the Auxiliary agreement. The Coast Guard understands these risks may impact Auxiliary member's willingness to respond to search and rescue (SAR) incidents, and we are cognizant that some Auxiliary members may not wish to respond to SAR cases as a result.

It is important to note that both your contribution agreement with the Coast Guard, and member MOUs within Auxiliary organizations, identify members as 'solely responsible' for assessing whether participation in any authorized tasking poses any problems or hazards to the health and/or safety of members. As such, it is always the Auxiliary unit and members' responsibility to determine whether or not they will participate in a SAR tasking/response. Units/members must determine whether the potential risks, including those posed by COVID-19, justify their refusal to provide assistance.

Should your membership choose to participate in authorized activities, please know that the Rescue Coordination Centres have implemented a COVID-19 screening questionnaire in order to assess any possible risks posed by COVID-19, and will task accordingly.

As well, some provinces have compensation regimes for volunteers suffering damages while providing assistance on a volunteer basis but the Coast Guard can not provide advice or assurances on this potential compensation or entitlements under provincial law. We therefore suggest you consult with the appropriate provincial authorities on such matters.



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The Coast Guard values the health and safety of our employees and valued Auxiliary partners and can not thank you enough for your dedication to our shared marine safety goal.

Sincerely,

Daniel Breton
A/Director General, Response
Canadian Coast Guard