



2023-03-27

To: Station Leaders/Society Presidents/ Members

From: Bill Riggs, Chief Executive Officer

WorkSafe BC Coverage

One of the most critical tasks we all have is to ensure the safety of and provide support to our volunteers. To aid in that goal we have for years been attempting to secure WorkSafe coverage for our volunteer members. Despite our previous efforts with all levels of government we were not successful given that as a rule volunteers are not covered by WorkSafe.

In November of 2022 RCMSAR, in conjunction with Coastal Nations Coast Guard Auxiliary, provided a joint submission directly to the Board of Directors of WorkSafe BC asking the Board to exercise their authority and recognize our volunteers as workers for the purposes of WorkSafe coverage. This submission leaned heavily on the uniqueness and inherent risks to which the members of RCMSAR are exposed and the services they provide to the public.

I am very pleased to advise that the WorkSafe Board agreed with the case presented and granted our volunteers WorkSafe coverage as of 23 November 2022. I am obviously incredibly grateful for the WorkSafe Board's decision as RCMSAR volunteers now have access to much greater protection and support.

WorkSafe coverage provides support for a member's recovery, rehabilitation and a safe return to duties following an injury, illness, or disease resulting from RCMSAR authorized activities, primarily training and taskings. Benefits may also include wage loss or disability income. This coverage provides our members with benefits that are far superior to our current AD&D program.

We have always had a role both legally and morally in ensuring the safety of our volunteers. The implementation of WorkSafe is the next step and all of us have a role in making this program successful, from the perspective of continuing to ensure a safe operating environment for our members, prompt reporting of an incident by the member, to a thorough investigation by the immediate supervisor and the management of the process by headquarters.

I have attached for information and education purposes a more detailed overview of the respective roles and the process that must be followed by each person. In addition, you will find attached a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ'S). All this information will be posted on SMS.



This success with WorkSafe is another great step forward in ensuring RCMSAR continues to focus on a culture of safety and support. I have asked our Manager, Human Resources to support the WorkSafe program. Should you have any follow up questions/suggestions please reach out to John @ 778-214-1552 or john.johnston@rcmsar.com.

Stay Safe!

Bill