

Light Duty Opportunities For Volunteer Firefighter & EMS Worker

Consistent with the legislative intent of the New York State Volunteer Firefighters' Benefits Law and in full recognition of the sacrifice made by all volunteer firefighters and EMS workers, the Wyoming County Workers' Compensation Plan does hereby enact the following policy:

When a firefighter or EMS worker becomes incapacitated from performing his/her regular employment, they shall, by order of the Fire Chief or his/her assistant, be ordered on temporary suspension from active duty with the Fire Department, until such time as the following criteria have been met. The order shall be on Department letterhead and a copy shall be submitted to the County Workers' Compensation Plan and to the County Department of Fire & Emergency Services.

When a firefighter or EMS worker goes from temporary suspension to light duty, or when they return to full duty at his/her regular employment, the individual will produce a written note from the treating specialist, if there is one; if not, then a note from his personal physician or the County Health MD indicating the restrictions and/or the ability to return to full duty will suffice. A copy of this light duty policy should be given to the treating physician.

Light duty should be matched to the physical capability and/or limitations of the individual and their individual recovery process from the injury or disease previously sustained that they were medically treated for. Each volunteer firefighter or EMS worker needs to be cleared by the specialist, or the personal physician treating the condition; if no specialist is involved, then clearance from the County Health MD that performs the Fire Department's Annual Physicals will suffice.

The following are approved tasks that can be performed by fire personnel and EMS worker restricted to light duty:

- General Office tasks, filing, phone and radio dispatch.
- Computer-related work and correspondence
- Making of Coffee, etc. for extended calls
- Public education

NOTE: NO OPERATION OF FIRE APPARATUS, DRIVING, OR RIDING IN ANY VEHICLE, DEPARTMENTAL OR PRIVATELY OWNED, TO OR FROM THE SCENE OF FIRE, EMERGENCY OR DRILL IS PERMITTED UNDER LIGHT DUTY! THERE SHALL BE NO LIGHT DUTY OPPORTUNITY IN THE ABSENCE OF THE WRITTEN LIMITED RELEASE FROM THE PHYSICIAN.

