

Displaying information for All Roles located in Tennessee for All Scenarios

Powers, Duties, Rights, Privileges, and Immunities: Emergency Disaster Assistance Volunteer Providing Aid in Another Jurisdiction

Tenn. Code Ann. 58-8-109

Other medical professional, Volunteer / Other, Nurse, Physician, EMT, Government Public Health, Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Veterinarian, Dentist, Pharmacist, Social Worker, Mental and Behavioral Health Professional

An individual who responds to a request for assistance under the Mutual Aid and Emergency Disaster Assistance Agreement will retain the same powers, duties, rights, privileges, immunities, and entitlement to workers? compensation as they would they enjoy in carrying out job functions in their regular place of employment.

Powers, Duties, Rights, Privileges, and Immunities: Emergency Management Support Forces Providing Aid in Another Jurisdiction

Tenn. Code Ann. 58-2-113

Other medical professional, Volunteer / Other, Nurse, Physician, EMT, Government Public Health, Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Veterinarian, Dentist, Pharmacist, Social Worker, Mental and Behavioral Health Professional

An individual who is a member of the emergency management support forces will have the same rights and protections from being legally responsible as employees of the state and is entitled to workers? compensation through the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

An individual who is a state or local governmental employee, and who is a member of the emergency management support forces, will retain the same powers, duties, rights, privileges, immunities, and entitlement to compensation as they enjoy in their regular employment.

Good Samaritan Law

Tenn. Code Ann. 63-6-218

Other medical professional, Volunteer / Other, Nurse, Physician, EMT, Government Public Health, Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Veterinarian, Dentist, Pharmacist, Social Worker, Mental and Behavioral Health Professional

An individual who, in good faith, provides emergency first aid and rescue services, including using an AED, at the scene of an accident, en route to a medical facility, or at a medical facility will not be held legally responsible for acting or for failing to act. They can be held legally responsible if acting with extreme carelessness or intent to cause harm.

Generally, Good Samaritan laws only offer protection for those individuals who provide care during spontaneous emergencies unrelated to volunteer deployment.

**Liability: Physician Performing
Emergency Treatment on a Minor**

Tenn. Code Ann. 63-6-222

Physician

A physician who, in good faith, believes a minor's life or health is in danger and who performs emergency treatment on the minor without first obtaining parental consent will not be held legally responsible. They can be held legally responsible if acting with carelessness or if no effort was made to notify the minor's parents or guardian before beginning treatment.

Liability: Architect and Engineer

Tenn. Code Ann. 62-2-109

Volunteer / Other

When an emergency declaration is in effect, an architect or engineer who, in good faith and without compensation, provides voluntary professional services at the request of a public official will not be held legally responsible. They can be held legally responsible if acting with extreme carelessness, intent to cause harm, or perform the professional services after the 90 days following the emergency declaration.

**Liability: First Responder Responding
to Emergency Call**

Tenn. Code Ann. 29-34-203

Physician, EMT, Firefighter, Law Enforcement

A first responder or first responder's supervisor who, in good faith, forcibly enters a home following a 911 call and who is unable to summon an occupant of the house will not be held legally responsible.

**Liability: Administration of Opioid
Antagonist**

Tenn. Code Ann. 63-1-152(d), (g)

Other medical professional, Volunteer / Other, Nurse, Physician, EMT, Government Public Health, Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Veterinarian, Dentist, Pharmacist, Social Worker, Mental and Behavioral Health Professional

An individual who has an opioid antagonist for the purpose of giving it to another person believed to be at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose and, in good faith, administer teh opioid antagonist will not be held legally responsible. They can be held legally responsible if acting with extreme carelessness or intent to cause harm.

**Liability: Donation of Firefighting
Equipment**

Tenn. Code Ann. 29-34-206

Other medical professional, Volunteer / Other, Nurse, Physician, EMT, Government Public Health, Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Veterinarian, Dentist, Pharmacist, Social Worker, Mental and Behavioral Health Professional

An individual who, in good faith, donates firefighting equipment to a volunteer fire department will not be held legally responsible. They can be held legally responsible if they manufactured the firefighting equipment, altered the equipment following a technician's inspection of it, or if acting with extreme carelessness or intent to cause harm.

Liability: Volunteer Crisis Response Team Member

Tenn. Code Ann. 63-6-709

Other medical professional, Volunteer / Other, Nurse, Physician, EMT, Government Public Health, Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Veterinarian, Dentist, Pharmacist, Social Worker, Mental and Behavioral Health Professional

A volunteer crisis response team member who, without compensation and acting within the scope of assigned duties, participates in an intervention as part of a critical incident stress management team related to a crisis or disaster will not be held legally responsible for acting or for failing to act. They can be held legally responsible if acting outside the scope of their assigned duties or with extreme carelessness or intent to cause harm.

Liability: Providing Care, Assistance, or Advice Relating to Hazardous Materials

Tenn. Code Ann. 68-131-202

Other medical professional, Volunteer / Other, Nurse, Physician, EMT, Government Public Health, Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Veterinarian, Dentist, Pharmacist, Social Worker, Mental and Behavioral Health Professional

An individual who, in good faith, without compensation, and with the proper level of expertise, provides emergency care, assistance, or advice at the scene of an actual or impending accident involving hazardous materials will not be held legally responsible. They can be held legally responsible if acting with extreme carelessness.

Liability: Health Care Provider Regarding an Opioid Antagonist

Tenn. Code Ann. 63-1-152(g)-(h)

Other medical professional, Nurse, Physician, Dentist, Pharmacist

An appropriately licensed health care practitioner who, in good faith, prescribes, dispenses, or administers an opioid antagonist to an individual believed to be suffering from an opioid-related overdose will not be held legally responsible or professionally disciplined. They can be held legally responsible or professionally disciplined if acting with extreme carelessness or intent to cause harm.

Good Samaritan Law: Veterinarian Providing Emergency Treatment

Tenn. Code Ann. 63-12-142

Other medical professional, Veterinarian

A licensed veterinarian, or other veterinary personnel working under the direct supervision of the licensed veterinarian, who, in good faith, without compensation, and without being asked to do so, provides emergency treatment to an ill or injured animal will not be held legally responsible. They can be held legally responsible if acting with extreme carelessness.

Generally, Good Samaritan laws only offer protection for those individuals who provide care during spontaneous emergencies unrelated to volunteer deployment.

**Retired Physicians Can Practice
Medicine in Pro Bono Setting**

Tenn. Code Ann. 63-6-230

Physician

A retired physician or physician with an inactive license can perform services without compensation for individuals who seek treatment at a nonprofit organization.

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Other medical professional, Volunteer / Other,
Nurse, Physician, EMT, Government Public Health,
Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Veterinarian, Dentist,
Pharmacist, Social Worker, Mental and Behavioral
Health Professional

An individual who responds to a request for assistance under the Mutual Aid and Emergency Disaster Assistance Agreement will retain the same powers, duties, rights, privileges, immunities, and entitlement to workers? compensation as they would they enjoy in carrying out job functions in their regular place of employment.

**Powers, Duties, Rights, Privileges,
and Immunities: Emergency
Management Support Forces
Providing Aid in Another Jurisdiction**

Tenn. Code Ann. 58-2-113

Other medical professional, Volunteer / Other,
Nurse, Physician, EMT, Government Public Health,
Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Veterinarian, Dentist,
Pharmacist, Social Worker, Mental and Behavioral
Health Professional

An individual who is a member of the emergency management support forces will have the same rights and protections from being legally responsible as employees of the state and is entitled to workers? compensation through the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

An individual who is a state or local governmental employee, and who is a member of the emergency management support forces, will retain the same powers, duties, rights, privileges, immunities, and entitlement to compensation as they enjoy in their regular employment.

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**Scope of Practice: Emergency Medical
Services Personnel**

Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 1200-12-02-.03

Other medical professional, Volunteer / Other,
Nurse, Physician, EMT, Government Public Health,
Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Veterinarian, Dentist,
Pharmacist, Social Worker, Mental and Behavioral
Health Professional

When an emergency declaration is in effect, emergency medical services personnel and emergency responders can administer Board of Health approved antidotes or medications either by intramuscular injection or autoinjection, if available.

**Pharmacist Can Dispense Medication
without Authorization in Some
Circumstances**

Tenn. Code Ann. 63-10-207

Pharmacist

A pharmacist who, in good faith, believes failing to dispense a medication for a patient would result in endangering the patient's health, safety, or welfare can dispense a refill of up to 72 hours' worth of the medication without authorization. The pharmacist cannot dispense a controlled substance without authorization.

**Scope of Practice: EMT or Paramedic
During Declared Emergency**

Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 1200-12-02-.06

Other medical professional, EMT

When an emergency declaration is in effect, EMT-IVs, advanced EMTs, paramedics, and critical care paramedics, who successfully complete training provided by their local health department, can administer immunizations to the public in vaccination clinics operated by the state or a local health department.

Workers? Benefits: Volunteer Firefighter

Tenn. Code Ann. 50-1-309

Firefighter

An employee who is a volunteer firefighter can obtain paid leave from their regular place of employment to respond to fire calls. They will not lose vacation time, sick leave, or earned overtime as a result of volunteering. If they volunteer for more than 4 hours, they can take off the next work period, within 12 hours of their last volunteer action, as a paid vacation day, sick day, or unpaid day off. The employer can require that the employee submit a written statement from the volunteer fire department chief to verify the employee's volunteer service.

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Workers? Compensation: Volunteer Health Practitioner

Tenn. Code Ann. 58-2-812

Other medical professional, Nurse, Physician, EMT, Government Public Health, Veterinarian, Dentist, Pharmacist, Social Worker, Mental and Behavioral Health Professional

A volunteer health practitioner providing services in Tennessee or traveling to or from Tennessee to provide services is entitled to workers' compensation to the same extent as state employees.

Workers? Benefits: Certified Disaster Service Volunteer

Tenn. Code Ann. 8-50-810

Other medical professional, Volunteer / Other,
Nurse, Physician, EMT, Government Public Health,
Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Veterinarian, Dentist,
Pharmacist, Social Worker, Mental and Behavioral
Health Professional, Minor/Student

Upon request from the American Red Cross and supervisor approval, a state employee who is a certified disaster service volunteer can obtain paid leave from their place of employment for up to 15 days per year to participate in specialized disaster relief services with the American Red Cross.

Relevant Compacts

Interstate Civil Defense and Disaster Compact

Nurse Licensure Compact

Interstate Earthquake Emergency Compact

Emergency Management Assistance Compact