

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Liability Coverage for Volunteers

**Policy  
Number**

B-41

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**Purpose**

To establish and clarify Board policy concerning accident and liability coverage which is afforded to County Volunteers while participating in volunteer work activities sponsored by and under the direct supervision of the County.

**Background**

Recognizing the valuable services performed by volunteers for the County, it is the desire of the Board to mitigate the risk exposures that occur during the course and scope of their activities.

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that the following shall apply.

**Liability Coverage:**

Volunteers, as servants of the County, are afforded the same tort liability coverage as is available to any other employee. (Re: California Government Code 810.2).

The County shall defend the volunteer against any claim or action against him or her for an injury arising out of an act or omission occurring within the scope of the Volunteer's work activities which are sponsored and under the direct supervision of the County, and shall pay any judgment based thereon or any compromise or settlement of the claim of action.

The County shall not pay such part of a claim or judgment as is for punitive or exemplary damages.

Volunteer Fire Fighters performing services on behalf of San Diego County Fire Authority are covered by the County of San Diego and are considered volunteers of the County of San Diego. Volunteer Fire Fighters performing services on behalf of County Service Areas are provided coverage by the County Service Area and are not to be considered volunteers of the County of San Diego within the meaning of this policy.

**Automotive Liability:**

No coverage is offered for the use of Volunteers' private automobiles except when within the scope of the volunteers' work activities which are sponsored and under the direct

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supervision of the County and then only in excess to that insurance which the volunteer personally carries on his or her automobile.

**Sunset Date**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-23.

**Board Action**

8-21-79 (13)

11-6-84 (15)

4-28-87 (37)

8-8-89 (34)

3-14-95 ( 3)

6-15-04 (25)

12-9-08 (33)

09-15-09 (16)

10-18-16 (15)

**CAO Reference**

1. Department of Human Resources

2. County Counsel