
Work-Related Injury and Illness Reporting

1022.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance regarding timely reporting of work-related injuries and occupational illnesses.

1022.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions in this policy include:

Work-related injury or illness - Accidental personal injury or illness arising out of and in the course of employment (Md. Code LE § 9-101).

1022.2 POLICY

The Talbot County Sheriff's Office will address work-related injuries and occupational illnesses appropriately, and will comply with applicable state workers' compensation requirements (Md. Code LE § 9-101 et seq.).

1022.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

1022.3.1 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Any member sustaining any work-related injury or occupational illness shall report such event as soon as practicable, but within 24 hours, to a supervisor, and shall seek medical care when appropriate.

1022.3.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor learning of any work-related injury or occupational illness should ensure the member receives medical care as appropriate.

Supervisors shall ensure that required documents regarding workers' compensation are completed and forwarded promptly (Md. Code LE § 9-707). Any related County-wide injury- or illness-reporting protocol shall also be followed.

Supervisors shall determine whether the Major Incident Notification and the Workplace Safety and Health policies apply and take additional action as required.

1022.3.3 COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Commander who receives a report of a work-related injury or occupational illness should review the reports for accuracy and determine what additional action should be taken. The reports shall then be forwarded to the Sheriff, the County's risk management entity, and the Administrative Services Commander to ensure any required Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) Act reporting is made as required in the injury and illness prevention plan identified in the Workplace Safety and Health Policy.

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1022.3.4 SHERIFF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Sheriff shall review and forward copies of the report to the Administrative Services. Copies of the report and related documents retained by the Office shall be filed in the member's confidential medical file.

1022.4 OTHER INJURY OR ILLNESS

Injuries and illnesses caused or occurring on-duty that do not qualify for workers' compensation reporting shall be documented on the designated report of injury form, which shall be signed by a supervisor. A copy of the completed form shall be forwarded to the appropriate Commander through the chain of command and a copy sent to the Administrative Services Commander.

Unless the injury is extremely minor, this report shall be signed by the affected member, indicating that he/she desired no medical attention at the time of the report. By signing, the member does not preclude his/her ability to later seek medical attention.

1022.5 SETTLEMENT OFFERS

When a member sustains a work-related injury or occupational illness that is caused by another person and is subsequently contacted by that person, his/her agent, insurance company or attorney and offered a settlement, the member shall take no action other than to submit a written report of this contact to his/her supervisor as soon as possible.

1022.5.1 NO SETTLEMENT WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL

No less than 10 days prior to accepting and finalizing the settlement of any third-party claim arising out of or related to a work-related injury or occupational illness, the member shall provide the Sheriff with written notice of the proposed terms of such settlement. In no case shall the member accept a settlement without first providing written notice to the Sheriff. The purpose of such notice is to permit the County to determine whether the offered settlement will affect any claim the County may have regarding payment for damage to equipment or reimbursement for wages against the person who caused the accident or injury, and to protect the County's right of subrogation, while ensuring that the member's right to receive compensation for injuries is not affected.