

Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers

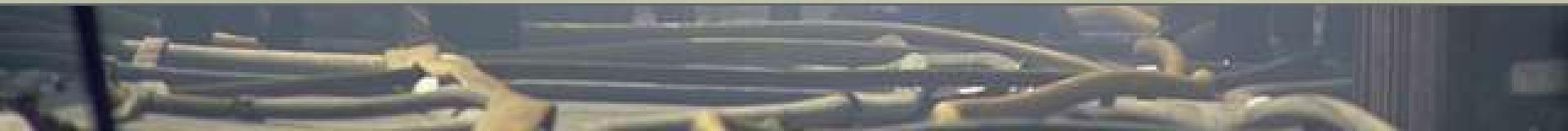
Hailey Blankenship – Executive Secretary





Who is the State Board?

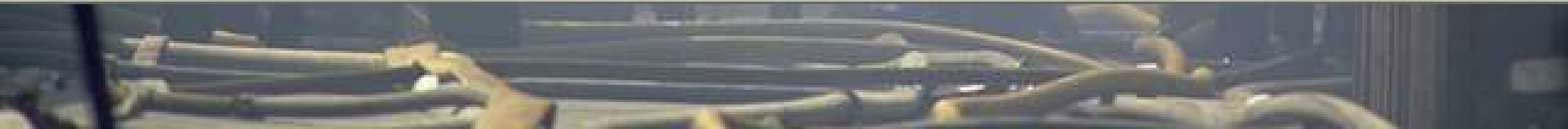
- Five Members from different Congressional Districts appointed by the Governor
- The Executive Secretary, appointed by the State Board
- Staff, hired by the Executive Secretary





BVFF Enrollment

- Any city or county municipalities with volunteers
 - Chapter 41.24 RCW:
 - Disability enrollment: **REQUIRED**
 - \$30.00 annual fee
 - Coverage for all on the job injuries, exposures and mental health claims
 - Claims paid according to Labor and Industries fee schedule
 - Pension enrollment: **Optional**
 - \$60.00 annual fee
 - Length of service award plan:
 - » $(\$10 * \text{number of annual contributions}) + \$100 = \text{Base Benefit}$
 - » Years of service factors
 - » Age factors between 60-65





Accruing Pension Benefits

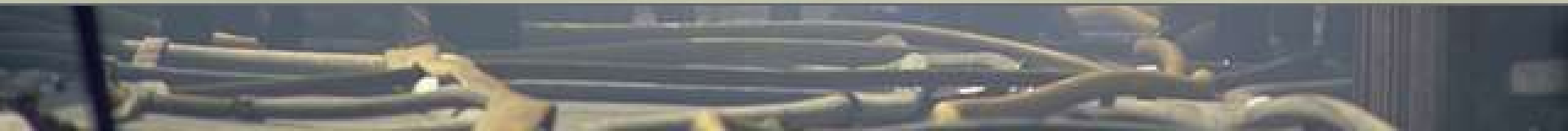
Must meet annual participation requirements under WAC 491-03-030

Training Requirements:

- Attend a minimum of ten percent (10%) or twenty (20) hours, of all drill and/or training annually, whichever is less.

Response Requirements:

- Respond to a minimum of ten percent (10%) of all calls at the member's assigned station or twenty-four (24) calls annually, whichever is less; or ninety-six hours (96) of standby time annually.





Annual Certification

- BVFF mails certification forms to municipalities each February for prior calendar year
- Local Board and Chief certify each participants participation level
 - If the requirements were not met for a year, the pension fee will be refunded to the department and that year of service will not count toward the member's pension
- Service for partial years at the start of service and the end of service will be pro-rated





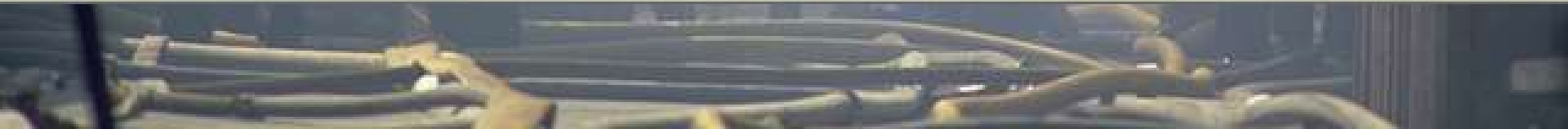
Disability Benefits

- Medical as necessary- Physicians paid according to L& I's fee schedule, prescriptions paid in full
- Hospital – Room, care and treatment
- Disability Compensation
 - Not to exceed amount of loss
 - For first 6 months – if unable to work at regular occupation
 - \$154.04 per day + COLA
 - \$4,620.24 + COLA per month maximum
 - After 6 months, if fully disabled
 - \$2,310.09 + COLA per month for member
 - Plus \$462.03 + COLA for spouse
 - Plus \$199.20 + COLA per child under 18
- Death Benefit - \$214,000
- Funeral Benefit - \$2,000
- Survivor Benefits
 - \$2,310.09 + COLA per month to surviving spouse
 - Plus \$500/mo. For each child under 18
- Mileage – Reimbursement at state rate for travel to extended treatment not available in firefighter's own area
- Written Accident Reports – MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE BOARD WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE ACCIDENT
- Screening physical exams for new volunteers reimbursed up to \$100.00 per exam



PERS, FLSA and BVFF

- BVFF & RO can only cover firefighters that are not working enough hours to be PERS eligible
- Career firefighters can still volunteer with a department other than the one they are career staff at and be covered by the BVFF for their volunteer position. They may want to consult their union representative to ensure there are no issues.
- The Board will continue to insure all firefighters that are not PERS or LEOFF eligible. This means that you could hire a wild land firefighter and they could work for 120 hours a month for the fire season, as long as they do not do so for 5 or more months in a year. Therefore, the majority of wild land firefighters will be able to retain their BVFF coverage. Remember, however, that they must remain employees of the fire department. If they respond to a mobilization fire and sign in as WSP employees, they will receive their relief coverage from L & I. Their BVFF coverage is not affected as long as they are still meeting your departments' standards.





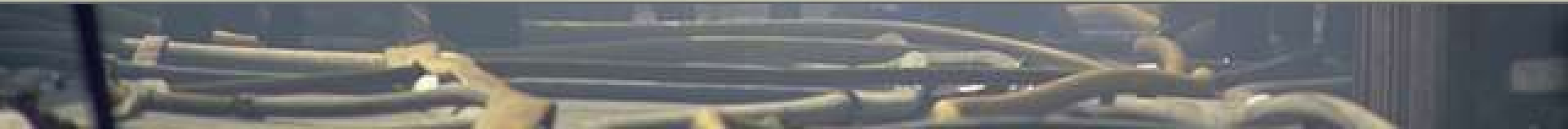
PERS, BVFF and FLSA cont.

- According to FLSA a district may pay its volunteers a sum not to exceed twenty percent of what it pays its paid firefighters for similar services. If a district has no paid firefighters, it may use the amount paid by nearby districts.
- To be PERS eligible a fire fighter must work for minimum wage for at least 70 hours per month for 5 months a year or more for two consecutive years.
- Volunteers Cannot be paid a salary or hourly wage (FLSA)
 - They may receive reimbursement for expenses, reasonable benefits, or a nominal fee.
 - Volunteer firefighters cannot receive more than 20 percent of the pay of a career firefighter
 - Fees cannot vary based on the volunteer spending more or less time engaged in firefighting activities
- Volunteers cannot do the same type of service for the same agency, and do so in both a career and volunteer capacity.
 - In other words, no one can be both a career fire fighter and a volunteer firefighter with the same department.
 - However, that same person might volunteer with that department in a non-firefighting capacity, or in a firefighting capacity with a different district.
- PERS is an “opt-in” system. Thus, even if a public employee meets other eligibility requirements, he or she will not be a member of PERS unless the agency has opted in at some point.
 - If a department has never employed PERS-type employees (e.g. bookkeeping staff), then the department may not have opted into PERS. Thus, even if a volunteer fire fighter is a part-time employee (as opposed to a volunteer) and worked over the hourly threshold, the member would still be covered by BVFF & RO if the department has not opted into PERS



What is covered?

- **Drill and Training-** Travel to and from training is not covered.
- **Emergency Response-** From the time the tone goes off or the dispatch is received to the time they go home or until their first stop.
- **Work in or about company quarters-** work at the station volunteers are required to perform by the chief or other officers.
THESE MUST BE SECONDARY TO FF DUTIES!
- **Physical Training-** dept. must have SOP of SOG requiring physical training or fitness, there must be guidelines in place and followed and training must take place at the station. Off-site training is not covered.



Questions??



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