

New law states that it is Louisiana public policy to encourage citizens to volunteer as firefighters.

Prior law provided that a volunteer fireman who rendered emergency or rescue services was not individually liable for civil damages that occurred as a result of acts or omissions that occurred during the fireman's rendering of emergency or rescue services while in the performance of his duties.

New law deletes prior law and provides that a volunteer fireman shall not be individually liable for civil damages as a result of acts or omissions when rendering firefighting emergency or rescue services while in the performance of his duties at the scene of an emergency, or when conducting normal functions of the fire department or organization.

New law defines "normal function" as training sponsored by the fire department or organization, preparation for and maintenance requirements of the Louisiana Property Insurance fire suppression rating, and maintenance of all fire suppression equipment and emergency or rescue service equipment.

Provides that the immunity provided by new law shall only apply to liability for civil damages as a result of acts or omissions resulting in injury or death of another volunteer fireman or damage to his property.

Provides that the provisions of new law shall not apply to travel by a volunteer fireman while in a personal vehicle or to damages caused by the intentional acts or omissions or gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

New law further clarifies that a volunteer fireman shall not be individually liable for civil damages as a result of undertaking any normal functions that are assigned by the fire department or organization with which he is volunteering.

Effective August 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 37:1735)