

2015 Partial Government Shutdown Layoff FAQ

On May 18, 2015 Governor Walker sent a letter to State employees regarding the Fiscal Year 2016 budget transmitted to his Office by the Legislature and his subsequent decision to veto unfunded items. Going forward, should the Legislature not pass a fully funded budget prior to July 1, 2015, funding will solely be available for critical positions of life, health, and safety. In early June a majority of State employees will receive a layoff notice.

1. Will a partial government shutdown affect my workers' compensation benefits?

No. Workers' compensation benefits are paid by private sector insurance companies or self-insured employers, either directly or through third party administrators. A government shutdown will not impact delivery of benefits.

2. I'm a state employee. Will a partial shutdown impact my workers' compensation benefits?

No. For state employees, benefit payments are made through the Department of Administration, Division of Risk Management. If a partial shutdown occurs, Risk Management will continue processing benefit payments.

3. Will Worker's Compensation Division staff be available during the partial-shutdown?

Yes. Workers' Compensation staff will be available to answer questions and assist injured workers and employers.

4. My claim for benefits is currently being litigated. Will prehearings or hearings continue to be held as scheduled?

Yes. The Workers' Compensation Division and the Workers' Compensation Board will continue to hold prehearings and hearings as scheduled.

5. I have an appeal scheduled for a hearing before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission. Will the hearing continue as scheduled?

Yes. The Appeals Commission will hold hearings as scheduled.

6. Will the Second Injury Fund, the Fishermen's Fund, and the Benefits Guaranty Fund continue to process claims for benefits?

Yes. All funds managed by the Division of Workers' Compensation will continue to process claims and benefit payments.