

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 5, 2016

Contact: Evelyn McGill Phone: 1-877-664-2566 Email: questions@workcomp.virginia.gov

## Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission Warns of Workers' Compensation Scam

[**Richmond**, **VA**]- The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission has been made aware of a telephone scam operating within the state of Kentucky that targets injured workers. Since Kentucky and Virginia share a state line, it is recommended that those involved in the workers' compensation process, particularly those in southwest Virginia, remain vigilant.

According to reports the caller, claiming to represent the "Workers' Compensation Appeals Board," advises individuals that they have been granted workers' compensation benefits which will be available once a certain "tax" or "fee" has been collected. In the state of Virginia, workers' compensation beneficiaries are not contacted in this manner. There are no taxes or fees which must be paid in order to receive workers' compensation wage benefits.

Chairman Wesley G. Marshall advises Virginians to be on alert for potentially fraudulent calls. "Never provide payment or sensitive data on a call that you did not initiate," Chairman Marshall said. "I encourage Virginians to stay cautious as we all play an important role in safeguarding our own personal information."

Individuals receiving such calls may contact the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission at 877-644-2566 and <u>Questions@workcomp.virginia.gov</u>.

## **About The Commission**

The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission (VWC), established in 1918, is an independent judicial and administrative state agency which oversees the workers' compensation system for employees, employers, and insurers. VWC interprets and applies the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act and resolves claims through hearings and mediation. A 2014 Oregon study ranked Virginia as the fourth-lowest cost system in the nation. Leading the way in electronic data and claims filing systems, in 2015 VWC processed over 52,000 claims and issued over 4,100 judicial opinions. VWC also administers the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, the Uninsured Employer's Fund, and adjudicates claims under the Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program. Headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, VWC operates regional offices in Lebanon, Virginia Beach, Roanoke, Harrisonburg, Manassas, and Fairfax.

For more information about the VWC, visit <u>www.workcomp.virginia.gov</u>. For more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please call Charles Steepleton at 1-877-664-2566 or email <u>questions@workcomp.virginia.gov</u>.