Accident compensation claims of Works Progress employees injured in the performance of duty will be quickly and efficiently settled, Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, announced today.

While the order has been given to all State Works Progress Administrators that "WPA jobs must be safe jobs," Mr. Hopkins pointed out there will inevitably be some accidents, "but no worker injured in the office or in the field will suffer needless delay in receiving treatment and compensation payments."

Instructions on first-aid and compensation have gone forward to all State Works Progress Administrators, together with 250,000 large posters to be placed on the jobs. On large jobs, these posters will be placed in several conspicuous places, such as tool rooms, pay offices, etc.

In case of accident, the worker is instructed to secure immediate first-aid treatment. On each job there will be competent first-aid men. Under the Civil Works Administration through cooperation of the American Red Cross, the U. S. Bureau of Mines, and other organizations 50,000 first aid attendants were trained. A majority of these will be available on WPA jobs.

If medical treatment is necessary, it should be rendered by a Government medical officer or dispensary. Should none be available, treatment by a physician or hospital provided by the Commission, or approved by the local WPA will be arranged without cost to the worker.

The injured worker is instructed to report his accident immediately, securing names and addresses of witnesses and making certain every injury sustained is reported in proper form. The claim should be made promptly, the poster advises.

Any Works Progress employee receiving payment in accordance with schedules established by the President for services rendered as an employee of the United States who sustains a traumatic injury by accident while in the performance of duty,
is entitled to receive reasonable medical, surgical, and hospital services, and
supplies to be furnished by Government medical officers where possible, and, if the
injury results in disability of more than three days, compensation is payable be-
ginning with the fourth day; if the injury results in death, compensation is payable
to the widow, children, and other dependents.

The compensation payable during total disability is at the rate of two-
thirds of the monthly wage, but cannot exceed $25 a month, nor $3,500 in the total
aggregate for any individual case. No compensation is payable if the injury is
caused by willful misconduct of the employee, his intention to bring about the in-
jury, or intoxication.

It was pointed out that if any worker is in doubt about his rights under
the compensation provisions authorized for the Works Progress Administration, he
should inquire of a qualified WPA official or write to the United States Employees'
Compensation Commission at Washington, D. C.

During the four and one-half months of Civil Works activity, approximately
160,000 reports of injury were submitted to the U. S. Employees' Compensation
Commission. Among these reports were 350 fatal cases, 100 cases of permanent total
disability, 600 cases of permanent partial disability, 46,000 cases that involved
lost time, and the remainder no lost time cases involving medical or hospital ex-
 pense. It is estimated that the cost of all claims to their full maturity will be
approximately $7,000,000. At the start of the program $25,000,000 was impounded
with the Commission to compensate for all losses. About 4,000,000 workers were en-
gaged under the CWA. Under WPA $28,000,000 was placed with the Commission.

Under the work-relief program conducted by the several State Emergency
Relief Administrations, compensation work was handled separately by each State. In
practically every instance compensation costs were very low. Information from
State emergency relief administrations confirmed the impression that the recorded
accident experience under a nation-wide work-relief program exceeded the most
sanguine hopes of those anticipating a favorable record, and completely routed the
suspicion that malingering, false claims, and inefficient claim practices would
make work relief the most undesirable of compensation insurance risks.

It was pointed out that much was learned during the Civil Works Program
that has been put to good advantage in organizing for the discharge of the responsi-
bilities anticipated in connection with accident claim work. The organization of
Accident Compensation Claim Sections in the several States is progressing very
satisfactorily and should maintain a high level of efficiency by utilizing the
valuable experience obtained under the CWA.
In each State Works Progress Administration, an accident compensation officer will be responsible for the entire conduct of the compensation program for the State. It is his duty to organize a State compensation office and other similar offices strategically located throughout the State. A compensation office will be set up in each district and a field compensation representative empowered to act for the State compensation officer locally, will visit each district at least once a week.

The United States Employees' Compensation Commission has extended to the Works Progress Administration the power of authorizing for payment locally, a period of disability not to exceed the first month's compensation in unquestioned cases of accident. This delegation of authority reveals a liberal recognition by the Commission of the cooperative relationship existing between the two agencies and will permit prompt payments to the injured. It will also reduce considerably the Commission's burden by closing out locally, so far as cash payments of compensation are concerned, the greatest majority of lost-time cases. Mutually satisfactory arrangements with hospitals and medical groups are now in process of formulation.