

What Is a Longshoreman? Louisiana Guide to Waterfront Work and LHWCA Coverage

Print-friendly handout: the basic coverage questions, early proof priorities, and LHWCA record-building steps for Louisiana waterfront injuries.

Longshore claims often turn on two early questions: was the injured worker doing maritime work, and did the injury happen on navigable waters or an adjoining area customarily used for loading, unloading, repairing, or building a vessel. This handout condenses the article into a checklist you can keep near your records while status, situs, employer identity, and medical documentation are being sorted out.

What A Longshoreman Usually Does

- Loading or unloading cargo at a dock, pier, wharf, or terminal
- Moving containers, breakbulk cargo, or vessel-related materials
- Rigging, lashing, staging, checking, or securing cargo
- Supporting ship repair, shipbuilding, or harbor construction

LHWCA Coverage Quick Check

- Where exactly were you - berth, gate, terminal, vessel side, or dry dock?
- What task were you doing when you were hurt?
- Which employer, carrier, contractor, or terminal was involved?
- What records exist - dispatches, job tickets, badge logs, video, or photos?

Benefits And Proof To Save

Benefit	What It Usually Covers	Proof To Save Early
Medical care	Clinic visits, imaging, therapy, prescriptions, and follow-up care tied to the injury.	First visit notes, referrals, work status slips, mileage, and prescriptions.
Disability pay	Wage-replacement benefits when restrictions reduce earning capacity.	Pay stubs, schedules, doctor restrictions, and missed-shift records.
Death / survivor	Potential survivor and funeral-related benefits in fatal cases.	Death certificate, dependency records, and claim paperwork.
Rehab support	Help when return to the same maritime job is not realistic.	Restrictions, rehab notices, and return-to-work communications.

Evidence Blueprint

Five record-building moves after a longshore injury, plus the first-day checklist to keep near your file.

Longshore Injury Evidence Blueprint

Five record-building moves after a Louisiana waterfront injury

1 Pin Down The Task And Location
Write the berth, gate, vessel, crew, and exact job. Save dispatches, job tickets, and badge logs.

2 Report It Clearly And Promptly
Use the same date, time, task, and mechanism everywhere. Ask that the report identifies waterfront work.

3 Start The Medical Timeline
Tell each provider it happened at work and describe symptoms. Keep restrictions, referrals, imaging, and follow-up notes.

4 Lock Down Terminal Evidence
Request video preservation, equipment logs, inspections, and photos. Save witness names before shifts rotate.

5 Preserve Wage And Work-Limit Proof
Keep pay stubs, missed shifts, light-duty offers, and written restrictions. Track tasks you cannot safely do now.

First-Day Checklist

- Incident report number or supervisor name
- Photos of the area, load, or equipment
- Witness names and phone numbers
- Job ticket, dispatch, or schedule
- First clinic records and work status slip
- Carrier or adjuster contact, if any

Why It Matters

If coverage is disputed, the paper trail about status, situs, and the first medical history can drive the claim.

Defense vs Evidence

Common employer and carrier narratives - and the records that answer them.

Defense Narrative	Evidence Anchor
Not a covered situs	Berth numbers, terminal map, gate logs, photos, and records showing proximity to vessel loading or unloading.
Not maritime status	Job tickets, task lists, training records, and witness notes tying the work to cargo handling or related waterfront operations.
No timely report	Incident report request, supervisor texts, first medical notes, and witness accounts showing the work event was reported.
Minor incident / no mechanism	Same-day timeline, load weight, equipment logs, photos, and witness statements explaining how the event unfolded.
Normal imaging means you are fine	Serial exams, therapy notes, specialist follow-up, and written restrictions showing ongoing function limits.
Pre-existing or you can still work	Baseline function, new symptoms, essential job duties, pay records, and post-injury schedule or wage changes.
<p>Why This Matters</p> <p>In many longshore claims, the first narrative in the file gets repeated until someone anchors the record with documents.</p>	

Keep the timeline, location, and work history consistent.

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Free Case Review For Longshore And Waterfront Injuries

Use this page when the questions start quickly - who covers the claim, who gets the report, and what to save before port records change.

Helpful To Have Ready

- Incident report number or supervisor name
- Dispatch, schedule, or job ticket
- Witness names or crew contacts
- First clinic paperwork and work status

Call Sooner If...

- The employer says the location is not covered
- You are asked for a recorded statement right away
- Multiple companies were involved at the terminal or vessel
- Video or equipment data could be overwritten

Louisiana Snapshot For Possible Third-Party Claims

Two-year prescription: Most Louisiana delictual claims use a two-year deadline. Comparative fault: Starting Jan. 1, 2026, a claimant who is 51% or more at fault can be barred from recovery in many tort cases. Those state-law rules do not replace Longshore filing rules.

If the legal lane is unclear, the first goal is to protect the timeline and preserve port records before they change. Babcock Injury Lawyers handles Louisiana injury cases with an evidence-first, trial-ready approach.

What happens next:

- We triage the likely coverage issues.
- We spot records that need to be preserved.
- We map the paperwork pressure points early.

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