



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
OPERATING ENGINEERS

RONALD J. SIKORSKI
Business Manager
and
General Vice President

March 30, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We need your help on all construction and related industries. If we do not keep the recommended 6 feet of separation on the job site, the Governor is going to shut down all construction in the State of California. If this happens, it will not only shut down your livelihood, the economy and critical infrastructure of California.

Please follow the safety guidelines that I have enclosed for your information. Please work and stay healthy.

Fraternally,

Ronald J. Sikorski, Business Manager
I.U.O.E., Local Union No. 12 and
General Vice President

RJS:va

Enclosures (2)

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BUILDING TRADES BULLETIN

March 27, 2020

Continued Communication Regarding COVID-19 and Building Trades Members

It is essential that members maintain the attached guidelines that we circulated last week that include social distancing, driving directly to and from work with no contact with the general public, hand washing, and equipment and site cleaning (SEE ATTACHED). While the vast majority of projects are strictly complying with state guidelines, this week in California, one large worksite was closed because workers were not adhering to appropriate social distancing by gathering in groups at lunchtime.

The vast majority of our membership is adhering to these guidelines and continue to need to work to support their families and keep California and its critical infrastructure operational. As you know, the state, by executive order, has deemed construction workers essential; therefore, at this time, they are permitted to travel to and from work. If we do not adhere to the basic guidelines of not gathering in groups at lunch or otherwise, our members will lose this designation.

Every Building Trades member has the ability to choose whether they continue to work or not depending on their own personal health or that of their family or other personal circumstances such as living with elderly or immune compromised relative. No member should be working who has a fever or cough or who otherwise displays symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

Business agents should be visiting work sites where their membership is working. While setting an example by maintaining proper social distancing and good

hygiene, they should be emphasizing to their members the safety guidelines and answering questions. In addition, you and your members should be carrying union membership cards and be prepared to show them to any member of law enforcement who is tasked with enforcing “stay home” orders. We believe enforcement will be more strictly enforced in the days and weeks to come. We have already been alerted of one such check point and we should encourage our members to be cooperative with law enforcement during this global pandemic.

Other states are shutting down construction in response to the crisis. We know that if construction can continue safely, it is essential not only for our members’ livelihood but also for the economy and critical infrastructure of the State of California that we build and maintain every day. Water treatment plants, sewage facilities, hospitals, fire and police stations, mass transit, refrigerated food storage warehouses, supermarkets, housing, power production plants, oil and refinery facilities are all critical and being built and maintained by our membership during this crisis.

Please have business agents and other appropriate representatives continuously visit the jobsites where your members are working emphasizing the safety standards that apply to construction work sites. Be safe, keep your members safe and keep your families safe. We are truly all in this together.

BUILDING TRADES UPDATED BULLETIN

March 20, 2020

COVID-19 Safety Measures on Construction Sites

The following communication is merely a guideline absent a state or federal mandate to close construction sites until the COVID19 outbreak has subsided.

We are sending out this memo to help clarify the current situation affecting Building Trades affiliates, their members, and the construction sites they work on. After speaking to many Business Managers and contractors, the Building Trades suggests the following guidelines when it comes to construction sites where members of Building Trades affiliated unions are working.

This scenario may change because of circumstances beyond our control, but, at this moment, as the coronavirus outbreak continues to spread, Building Trades leaders are working closely with local affiliated unions, project owners, contractors, and public agencies to keep construction sites open and safe. The safety of workers is always of paramount importance, particularly in situations like this.

Contractors and jobsite safety personnel should take specific steps to increase hygiene on the jobsite, such as:

1. Adding sanitary facilities (toilet and hand washing stations with soap and hand sanitizer provided). Workers should both wash their hands with soap for twenty seconds and use hand sanitizer often.
2. Performing deep cleaning on jobsites including disinfecting handrails, doorknobs, equipment handles and tools on an accelerated basis.

3. Instead of having group safety meetings, and to keep the suggested social distance, they should have smaller individual safety meetings at the jobsite maintaining social distancing guidelines.
4. Keep separation of at least 6 feet as feasible while on the job and always during rest and break periods and lunches; there should be no group gatherings.
5. Workers should consider bringing a lunch made at home and stay away from congested lunch trucks and coffee shops. Go directly from work to home and vice versa with as little contact with the general public as possible.
6. Workers should wear and utilize all safety equipment available on the jobsite. Contractors should provide all protective equipment as available.

It is up to us to make the conditions as conducive toward the safety of our members as possible. In addition to the above guidelines, here are the NABTU (North America's Building Trades Unions) and the CPWR (Center for Construction Research and Training) guidelines:

1. If you are sick, stay home and don't show up to work.
2. Don't shake hands when greeting others.
3. Try to stay three to six feet away from others.
4. Avoid sick people.
5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
6. Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer that contains 60-95% alcohol; soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.

Construction workers often work with gloves outside and typically can work with some distance between each other. And they get paid only when working.

If these guidelines cannot be met and a project is in tight quarters, or in contact with the general public, consideration should be given to shutting the construction project down until safer conditions exist.

We will keep you up to date with the latest information as we get it.

Stay safe, protecting yourself, protects the family members you come home to.