



PLUMBERS LOCAL 75

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Brothers and Sisters,

We are dealing with an uneasy time and unprecedented circumstance that has been thrust upon us as part of a global health and economic crisis. The spread of this virus is fast, invisible and indiscriminate. This invisible enemy is causing fear and anxiety across the globe. We need to be calm, measured and safely smart as we perform our professional services to help thwart this pandemic. Right now, we have very few members out of work and some employers have manpower requests for plumbers in our jurisdiction. Just last night the White House declared plumbers as essential service providers.

To date we are aware of 2 Plumbers 75 Members who were home quarantined due to exposure to a worker on a job site that had tested positive for COVID 19. We are not aware of any UA members in Wisconsin that have been diagnosed with COVID 19.

There is a ton of information being generated and distributed about the COVID 19 pandemic. The information and situation are changing rapidly. Please be cautious about information posted on social media. We are sorting through the information and will work to pass on meaningful accurate information in a timely fashion. Due to the speed and fluidity of the information we will be sending information by email, Facebook and posting on our Plumbers 75 website.

We as licensed professional plumbers are charged to do our part to protect the health and safety of the public. We are not alone on the front line of safeguarding public health and safety during this International Public Health Emergency. Health care professionals and other essential services providers such as food and transportation industry workers are working through these challenges as well across America and around the globe.

We are in communication with government officials and agencies to develop and gather information and updates regarding workplace and public safety. We have gotten a few calls about minimal jobsite amenities like toilet paper and hand sanitizer. Jobsite hygiene is important and is the responsibility of the employers to provide adequate toilet and handwashing facilities to workers. Onsite theft of hygiene products has been an unfortunate reality. Our State Building Trades Council has drafted a joint letter in coordination with Union Contractor Associations of jobsite policy, commitment and recommendations.

This joint letter is intended to lay out agreed upon expectations and requirements for workers, employers and public safety on jobsites. Adhering to these agreed upon policies by labor and management will help ensure that our members and employers can keep providing essential services to the public and provide worker and public protections on and to and from those jobsites.

Business Manager
Steve Breitlow



Right now, the most important thing we can do to combat this health and economic pandemic is to go to work with a serious, safe and steady resolve and be mindful of how essential our work and profession is to public safety and ending this pandemic.

We have been in communication with DSPS, city and private inspection agencies about plumbing inspections. They are short staffed and are prioritizing inspections by focusing on rough and underground plumbing installations and postponing inspections for some service, residential, and finish inspections. Our plumbing inspectors are practicing social distancing and in some cases are requiring no more than one plumber and/or worker on inspection site. Some additional communication and coordination may be warranted to get timely inspections. I encouraged them to develop and share some temporary protocols with us and/or contractors to help our plumbers to get more consistent efficient inspections during this crisis.

No one can be certain how long it will take to get this pandemic behind us. Public and private entities are gathering input and ideas for the purpose of developing and providing financial support for workers impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic.

We are working with our Governor, Legislature and Government Agencies to enhance worker opportunities, protections, security and benefits. State and Federal financial resources are being set aside for COVID 19 related job loss. If our industry and/or work for our members experience a significant slowdown or shutdown, we want to have accurate information about available resources lined up for our members and their families. Please watch for updates from us on our website and your email and text.

Home quarantine is the best way to protect our older members and retirees. Please consider reaching out to one or more of our retirees and check if they are OK and if you can save them some exposure by a trip to the store for food or supplies. If you are aware of a member in need of some help, food or supplies please contact our office so we can provide or coordinate support and/or supplies for the member.

We are essential to public health and safety.

Be safe and let's all do what we can to support and protect each other and the public.

Steve Breitlow

For more information, please review the attached documents:

UA MCAA Joint Statement

Wisconsin Building Trades Council and WI Contractor Association Joint Letter

Guidelines to Protect Worker Health Related to Coronavirus and Other Potential Infectious Materials

Emergency Order #5 Prohibiting Mass Gatherings of 10 People or More

Emergency Order # 7 Unemployment Job Search Waiver