



PLUMBERS LOCAL 75

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Brothers and Sisters,

The COVID Crisis continues to evolve and ramp up in our state and jurisdiction. Information and directives from authorities and agencies continue to be in flux and are often based on what we or other populations should have done yesterday. We are in continued communication with government officials, our UA General Office, our employers, other trade unions and other industry stakeholders. With the rapid actions and implementation of public health and safety policy, some information is being put out prematurely and/or inaccurately. We continue to gather and share accurate and pertinent updates to our members related to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Earlier this week, Governor Evers enacted a statewide "Safer At Home" Order.

To date "Plumbing", along with other services has been deemed as an essential service by various federal and state authorities. At this point that means that we as plumbers are exempt from the SAH Order in relation to our essential occupational services. At this point folks traveling to and from their essential workplace are not required to have documentation from their employer verifying that they are an essential service provider. If required at some point our WI License and or UA Membership will likely be acceptable documentation for travel to and from work.

This order deems most of construction to be essential services. Halting progress on a project unfinished without proper steps and protections for the building enclosure and interior systems can create more public health and safety concerns now and in the future for the current or future occupants of the building. It is important to the public and our economy that we provide our essential services and if we do not perform our work as needed, public health and safety will be at risk immediately or in the future.

Construction sites are generally less populated than many other workplaces. With some common sense and common courtesy, we can adhere to the prohibiting of "Mass Gathering" of 10 or more people in a single room or confined or enclosed space and follow the six - foot between people, social distancing policy.

We have heard of some instances of members working on Jobsites where the social distancing is not being practiced or taken seriously and where PPE is not available to our members. Ironically, the building trades unions and training schools are being asked to donate whatever PPE we might have to health care providers. Our profession and service are essential to public health and safety. We all also need to be mindful of our member and co-worker health and safety. The best way for us to keep providing essential services and doing our jobs is not to be part of the problem and spread of the virus. Please liken jobsite safety regarding social distancing, sanitation and PPE protection to working in a ditch excavation. **If you feel a jobsite work area is unsafe**, please take action to protect yourself and others.

Business Manager
Steve Breitlow



If possible, stay on the site, go to a safe area on the jobsite and contact your employer and/or one of our Union Business Agents. Jobsite safety is a shared responsibility and the chain of protocol and responsibility will vary per site depending on how many contractors, sub – contractors or if there is a general contractor or other jobsite hierarchy.

We are living in an extremely stressful and unprecedented environment. We need to stick together and suppress our fear and take action using common sense and extending common courtesy to support and protect our fellow members and human beings. Precaution is the best prevention. Everything matters. We will never know how many people had the Coronavirus or exactly who and how it was spread. We are living in a surreal situation based on an invisible and unprecedented global threat that all the resources in the world have not overcome yet. Most of us humans, even if we get infected, may never know for sure if it was Coronavirus due to the lack of health care facilities, provisions, providers or test availability. There are a bunch of smart people and government leaders around the world making guesses and predictions about how to deal with and stop this pandemic. When the pandemic sub-sides we will still be guessing about which guesses of what to do were the most effective. The only best undisputable action we can take to beat this pandemic is to limit and distance ourselves from unprotected exposure to other humans.

Apprentices

Our Milwaukee Plumbing Joint Apprenticeship Committee met by conference call yesterday. The Committee has decided to suspend paid related day school and most night school classes until May 1, 2020. We believe that making a hasty transition to online training without appropriate notice and ample opportunity for individual apprentices to have the in-home accommodations and infrastructure to accept delivery of online training is not critical to timely completion of our apprentices. Some Plumbing Apprenticeship committees around the state are transitioning to online training. No one is certain how long it will be before it will be possible for us to resume a more normal training environment. Our training department and instructors are working to make training delivery adjustments in house rather than impose training access adjustments in your house. We all have enough stress and uncertainty to deal with during this pandemic. For now, do your best to focus on working and learning safely on the jobsite and tend to your family at home.

Steve Breitlow