



PLUMBERS  
UNION LOCAL 75

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Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association of  
Milwaukee and Southeastern Wisconsin

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March 24, 2020

Local 75 Member,

The labor leadership of Local 75 and the contractor members of the Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors' Association of Milwaukee and Southeastern Wisconsin are committed to the health, safety and welfare of the members of Local 75.

We are partners in support of Governor Evers, legislative leaders and state agencies with their approach to protect the health and well-being of the citizens of the State of Wisconsin. To that end, and per the Emergency Order #12, *Safer at Home*, our contractor's and our members will continue to provide essential services in the state, while educating our workforce to stay home if they feel unwell.

As you know, we are already taking precautions in accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and OSHA. Our job sites are unique workplaces with built-in social distancing and rigorous safety protocols. As essential service providers, it is imperative that we take every precaution to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus to co-workers as we continue to go to work and provide professional services as safe as possible to our customers and the public.

Governor Evers' order to exempt construction, critical trades, manufacturing for critical industries is consistent with other states that have issued "shelter at home" or "stay at home" orders. The work that you are doing in hospitals, manufacturing facilities, food and beverage production and distribution facilities, public works facilities and other spaces that are critical to operate efficiently and effectively during this pandemic, must continue. Even single-family or commercial construction sites could become a long-term risk to overall health and safety if left unfinished. The SAH Order does not currently require Essential Service Provider to carry document verification. A WI plumbing license would work if it becomes necessary.

Ultimately, the decision to work is yours. You are encouraged to take all the precautions recommended to stay safe at work and at home. You are ESSENTIAL to the safety of our

community. The work that you do is of the utmost importance and that is a reason why you are still called to work when others may not be

Your safety is an absolute priority to the contractor. A contractor will not send you to work in an unsafe environment or require you to perform work that will put you at excessive risk due to the COVID 19 epidemic. You are encouraged to take precautions as recommended by the CDC and other health officials.

**REMEMBER:** Wash your hands routinely; clean shared tools between users. Practice the state mandated 6ft social distancing; consider removing all work clothes and equipment before entering your home and washing them daily.

If you are uncomfortable that your jobsite is not providing you with the necessary resources please bring those concerns to your foreman's attention. If you don't feel you are receiving the feedback you deserve, bring that to your Local 75 Union leadership.

If the GC who is managing your site is not following the state-imposed rules of close contact and proximity, you do not have to participate in that jobsite. Again, refer that to your foreman and/or your Local Union. **DO NOT SIMPLY GO HOME.** Communicate your concern so that a safe place will be established for all.

There will NOT BE RETALIATION from a contractor should you choose to make your feelings known and/or choose to leave the jobsite.

The decisions made by Governor Evers are difficult. We appreciate his well-reasoned approach and commitment to the safety of the citizens and businesses of Wisconsin. We understand the importance of balancing public health with the need to support critical industries.

Through our partnership we will work to ensure we keep the power on, commerce moving, hospitals working, public works operational and construction projects safe for us and the general public.

Sincerely,



Steve Breitlow  
Business Manager  
Plumbers Local 75



Jonathan Kowalski  
Plumbing and Mechanical  
Contractors Assn. of  
Milwaukee and Southeastern  
Wisconsin