



April 1, 2020

## COVID-19 Job Site Safety

### Operating Safely is of Paramount Importance

CPMCA Members,

I have always been extremely proud that one of the defining characteristics of the Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors industry is your unwavering commitment to the safety and health of every worker. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, your workers and the American public are relying on you to continue that commitment to safety. Indeed, as CPMCA and our network of statewide chapters have been mostly successful in ensuring that construction operations continue in many parts of the country, the obligation to safeguard your workers has grown ever more apparent.

The construction industry in California has been exempted from the Governor's 'Stay-at-Home' Executive Order. However, many recent news accounts, social media videos, etc., have surfaced throughout the state that clearly show some construction work sites in plainly visible and situational non-compliance to recognized distancing and cleanliness guidelines. These include, not adhering to physical distance requirements (6-8 feet apart at all times including breaks), disinfection of common areas, tools or equipment, etc.

This situation has become even more urgent than it was before. While there are likely just relatively few companies/jobsites that are not in compliance—it is their inaction and/or indifference that is causing the construction industry as a whole to come under fire in a false message that the industry is not safe and is not taking care of its workers. Nothing could be further from the truth. Safety on the job site always has been and will remain the absolute highest priority of our contractor members.

**Governor Gavin Newsom, the Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and other public officials are now openly warning the construction industry that failure to follow these and other basic rules regarding COVID-19 will result in much more restrictive policies, up to and including shutting down of all “non-essential” construction projects in the state.**

Federal, state, and local officials have relied on our assurances that the steps your companies are taking, including social distancing, the use of PPE and monitoring who enters your jobsites, creates a safer environment than exists in other industries. These officials have taken us at our word and allowed many types of construction projects to continue because they know this industry has a long history of complying with complex and ever-changing safety rules and

regulations. I urge all of you to make sure that every member of your team is following the guidance and safety requirements public health and safety officials have provided to make sure your workers are protected from the coronavirus. There is no margin for error when it comes to protecting your workforce. Any lapse in safety protocols can, and likely will, prompt government officials to reverse the industry's ability to continue to operate with the stroke of a pen. That is why you, as Owners, CEO's and senior executives, need to ensure that safe practices are known, understood, and followed by everyone.

CPMCA urges all our member contractors to raise the threshold of their safety standards and practices—taking into full account the critical emergency we are all facing as a community. As a reminder, we are including recommended comprehensive COVID-19 response guidance.

We will update you as soon as we have more to share.

Be safe and we will connect soon.



Chip Martin  
CPMCA Executive Director

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>