



**For Immediate Release**

March 25, 2020

### **Minnesota Construction Industry Statement Regarding MN Emergency Executive Order 20-20**

The Minnesota construction industry is committed to the health, safety and welfare of our workforce and the public. Our respective organizations represent labor and management in the Minnesota construction industry. We support Emergency Executive Order 20-20 issued today by Governor Walz to protect the health of Minnesotans in light of the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.

Minnesota's construction employers and their skilled workforce build, maintain, operate and repair our critical infrastructure, from energy, water, roads, bridges and transit to hospitals, schools, housing, and centers of commerce. The Executive Order Directing Minnesotans to Stay at Home recognizes the importance of construction industry work and is consistent with other states' orders.

The following strategies, which are derived from CDC and OSHA workplace recommendations, have been and are being implemented on our construction industry jobsites across the state. Our organizations have been promoting the universal implementation of these measures to safeguard Minnesota construction industry jobsites through the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak, and we will continue to do so.

- Worker education – through specific communications and posters – of the importance of frequent handwashing, hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, and staying home when sick. All employees must carefully observe these requirements.
- Careful attention to jobsite toilet and hand cleaning facilities. All employers must ensure that these facilities are in clean, working order and stocked with soap and/or hand sanitizer.
- Jobsite and equipment cleanliness. Jobsites must be kept clean, with frequent cleaning of any frequently touched surfaces on the site. Any tools or equipment that might be shared by workers must be cleaned before and after use.
- Workers are being instructed to observe a minimum distance of six (6) feet between individuals to increase physical space between workers at the worksite. This includes pre-work and post-work events of all kinds.
- Employers are modifying their jobsite communications, planning, and schedules to eliminate group gatherings. This includes changes to or the elimination of pre-job conferences, communal break locations, and any other activity that would bring a group of people together on the jobsite. Policies for material deliveries and other third-party jobsite visits are being altered. Employers are simultaneously implementing new strategies to ensure ongoing, successful jobsite communications.

These and other measures – which include remote work directives in office settings – have the full support of labor and management. We will continue to support and take the steps necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of our workforce and the public.

**NOTICE: CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE EMPLOYEE**  
**42 U.S.C. § 195(c)e & MN EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-20**

26 March 2020

Federal and State orders have recognized working construction as critical or essential to the continued critical infrastructure viability, and therefore have exempt construction workers from the mobility and other restrictions designed to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. *See* United States Department of Homeland Security Critical Infrastructure Workforce Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers during COVID-19 Response dated 19 March 2020. Specifically, Minnesota’s “stay at home” order explicitly exempts construction work of all kinds as a critical work function. Minnesota Executive Order 20-20, ¶¶ 6(f) (roadway related); 6(g) (construction material suppliers); 6(i)(iv) (construction related to public health and safety); 6(x) (building construction and related work).

This Notice hereby certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ is an employee of \_\_\_\_\_, a construction company, is performing work designated as critical or essential under federal and state laws, and therefore is exempt from curfews, shelter in place, stay at home, and other restrictions, when traveling to and from work.

This individual must be allowed access and right of way.

Authorized by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ if you have any questions.*

3:32

LTE

X 3

Breaking: Construction De...

## Construction Declared Essential in Minnesota

### AGC of Minnesota Members:

Today, March 25, 2020, Governor Tim Walz issued [Executive Order 20-20](#) ("Stay Home Executive Order") directing Minnesotans to stay at home and limit movements outside their homes beyond essential needs for two weeks. The Executive Order is in effect for two weeks beginning on Friday, March 27 at 11:59 P.M. until Friday, April 10.

The order provides an extensive list of **essential services and employee designations** that includes construction. Therefore, construction is **NOT** currently impacted by the order and subsequent closure of non-essential businesses. Note that among the extensive list of essential service provider designations are accounting personnel and related financial services like banking, insurance, and payroll processing. If employees cannot perform their duties by teleworking, they should take all measures to comply with physical distancing protocols and CDC recommendations. Workers who provide critical services to the people of Minnesota at this time are exempt. The exemptions are based on [federal guidance](#), which includes construction, with some Minnesota-specific additions.

AGC of Minnesota led the industry's successful effort to exclude construction from the Executive Order, working with other key partners to deliver a strong and consistent message to the Administration. Today, we want to thank the Walz Administration for recognizing the important role construction services play in our economy and that our industry is well-prepared and capable of keeping the public and the construction workforce safe. Safety remains the number one priority for everyone. Please visit our [website](#) for preparedness protocols, safety precautions, employee communications, and more COVID-19 response resources.

### Exempt Worker Verification Form

Essential business employees should be permitted to travel to and from work without violating the new "Stay Home" Executive Order issued by Governor Walz. AGC has developed an [Exempt Worker Verification Form](#) for all employees that verifies exempt workers accommodating their work travel. Please keep this in your vehicle, along with your business card or badge.

### Public Owner Communication

The Minnesota Department of Transportation continues to operate and maintain bid letting schedules and their 2020 construction schedule. Other public owners such as the Metropolitan Council, Metropolitan Airports Commission, Department of Administration, the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State College and University System have all responded to recent AGC of Minnesota correspondence affirming that construction projects are proceeding. AGC of Minnesota has been in touch with local units of government and guidance has been issued from the Department of Labor and Industry and the League of Minnesota Cities instructing local governments to continue inspections and permitting per usual and to consider individuals performing those functions to be essential employees. Should issues arise following this initial adjustment period that cannot be worked out directly with the owner, please email Laura Ziegler at [lziegler@agcmm.org](mailto:lziegler@agcmm.org).

**Jesse Southwick**

3 MINUTES AGO