



IBEW 48
UNION ELECTRICAL WORKERS

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
15937 NE Airport Way
Portland, OR 97230

March 23, 2020 1:35 PM

Hello Member of IBEW Local 48,

The Governor of the State of Oregon has released Executive Order No. 20-12. It is called "Stay Home, Save Lives". It is essentially asking people to stay home in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. The Order places numerous restrictions on businesses, workspaces, individuals, travel, and some recreational activities.

This Order does not necessarily address what is considered to be "essential services" but what it does address are most of the types of businesses that are required to be closed. At this time, construction contractors are not on the list of businesses that are required to be closed or extensively modified and therefore will continue to operate. The Order does address requirements for businesses that are still operating to implement and enforce social distancing policies that are consistent with the guidelines of the Oregon Health Authority. It also addresses penalties for the Order not being followed. The Executive Order will be posted on the IBEW Local 48 website as well as the IBEW Local 48 Facebook page.

Having said all of that, I want to address possible rumors, misinterpretations, etc. that I have personally seen as well as communications that may not be clear.

First, as your Business Manager, I do not have the authority to shut a job down. I do not have the right to tell our members that they have to leave the job or stay on the job. I do have the responsibility to keep our membership informed as much as possible and to try to come to resolutions with the employers to make jobs as safe as possible and to give our members different choices. I want to remind all members working under any of the construction agreements, including apprentices and material handlers, that you have the right to go on temporary furlough for various reasons and you will not be denied unemployment. The IBEW and NECA have agreed upon this nationwide. The agreement is called the National Disease Emergency Response Agreement (NDERA) and is posted on our website. Locally the IBEW and NECA agreed to uphold this agreement. There is a statement on our website regarding that as well. At the same time the employers have contractual obligations to customers and general contractors that need to be fulfilled unless the government steps in and says otherwise.

Secondly, perhaps earlier communication was not clear, but I want to make sure that our members know that the hall is only closed to the public coming in. The Business office is still operating, reps and organizers are still working as well. We temporarily changed our hiring hall dispatch rules so that dispatch can all be done online or by phone as well as the same for signing in and resigning. The procedure is also listed on the website. The reason for this is so that we do not have a crowd of people



in the dispatch lobby where one person could potentially spread the virus to several others who in turn could spread it to numerous jobsites.

On a final note, I would ask that we please try not to judge each other. I need to follow this as much as anyone. I know there are members that have very legitimate reasons for not wanting to stay on a job. Some members are taking care of elderly parents, some have young children, some have compromised immune systems themselves, some do not want to take the risk of being there. These and many more are completely valid. On the flip side, we have some members that are financially struggling, some that have a spouse that lost their job, some that feel continuing to work is the right thing to do for our economy and to help fulfill the contractual obligations that contractors have to complete a project. These are all valid and they are things that we need to keep in mind. What I ask is that we all try to refrain from judging others for the decisions they feel they need to make. And please, if you are in a position of field management on a job, please do not pressure other members. I know you/we all have a job to do but we all need to respect the decisions of others.

Please stay safe and stay healthy.

Fraternally,



Garth Bachman

