RE: COVID-19 and Governor Inslee’s Stay at Home Order

BAC Local 1 Member,

Yesterday at 5:30pm Washington State Governor Jay Inslee issued a “Stay at Home” order that is to begin on Wednesday March 25th. It is important to understand that construction workers could be considered essential personnel and many BAC members will be able to continue working. More clarification is still needed from the Governor’s office, so please stay in regular communication with your employer for details on your specific job site. It is important to remember that as this pandemic continues, we need to be diligent in maintaining worksite safety and cleanliness which now encompasses more stringent distancing precautions.

This means if you are feeling ill please stay home, let your contractor know, and get checked by a medical professional. This is especially important if you are showing signs of acute respiratory illness (Fever, Coughing, and Shortness of Breath). Should you need to stay home because you are awaiting COVID-19 test results, because you have tested positive for COVID-19, or because you have been mandated to enter quarantine, you are eligible under the Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act for up to 10 days of paid sick time. Let your employer know immediately, and documentation may need to be provided.

If you are healthy, please continue to work and show that our members are the best in the craft. While working, your safety is the #1 priority, which is why you should be in communication with your contractor to assure the following recommendations can be followed as closely as possible:

- Limit your contact with others (6 feet of personal space)
- No group meetings that cannot accommodate 6 feet of space between participants
- Stagger break times, or take your break away from others
- Comply with daily thermometer monitoring
- Continue using the standard and task specific PPE
- Wash hands often (with hot water when possible)
- Use hand sanitizer often if available
- Use disinfectant wipes or alcohol solution for any shared tools before and after use

There are job sites and contractors being shut down due to COVID-19. If you find yourself laid off because of this, please let us know just as you would any other time. Our staff is on reduced hours, but our commitment to you is the same it has been. We will continue to post updates that affect our membership as we get them. Thank you for your understanding while we work through this.

Sincerely,
Matthew Bilyeu
President