

IUPAT DISTRICT COUNCIL 35

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OUR HEALTH AND SAFETY

As you know some cities and towns across our region have put a temporary halt to ongoing construction activity. As an affiliate of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council, District Council 35 has been part of a group calling for a state-wide shut-down of all but health and safety related construction projects. A state-wide shutdown has not materialized.

I've heard from members, most of whom are laid-off, who are relieved not to be in harm's way on the job site. These members understand that this financial setback, while significant, is a temporary one. I've also heard from sister and brother members who have been working on active worksites. I've learned of job sites that are clearly not safe. Each of your Business Representatives and Organizers have visited job sites and reported to me that there is an unsafe risk of exposure to COVID-19. Many of our partner contractors have made strong and sincere efforts to protect our members on the job. Despite these efforts, I am now convinced that construction sites in Massachusetts are not presently safe for our membership. I am proud to report that the members I have spoken with are most concerned with their health, the health of their loved ones and not being a negative factor in the spread of the COVID-19 virus. These stories from our members has filled me with a great sense of pride and I can tell you I have never been more honored to lead this great organization.

Effective at the close of business on April 6, 2020, I am directing all District Council 35 construction members to stop working until it is safe to resume. This directive does not apply to our construction members working on critical infrastructure projects or to any work being done on structures being built to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. We will spend this weekend communicating with every one of our signatory contractors and advising them of this action.

For any member who has a question please be in touch with your Business Representative, they are available by phone, text or email, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

I understand the impact this decision brings to you and your families, but my first and primary responsibility is to protect the health and safety of YOU, my sister and brother members.

