COVID-19 SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR CONSTRUCTION SITES

The City of San Luis Obispo is committed to delivering inspection services to keep permitted construction projects moving forward while implementing safety measures. Staff will be following additional Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) protocols to protect themselves and the community against the spread of COVID-19. We need your help in this effort and are implementing construction site guidelines in our City which are based on Interim CDC’s guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), OSHA’s Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19, and other publications.

Every California employer is required to develop and maintain an effective injury and illness prevention plan. Federal, State and Local emergency conditions have been declared and fortunately, essential construction projects may continue to occur during this emergency condition. Cal OSHA has provided references for effective injury and illness prevention guidelines that may be found by visiting https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/General-Industry.html.

In addition, the following checklist shall apply to all current and future construction sites within the City of San Luis Obispo for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency declaration:

1. The owner/contractor shall designate a site specific COVID-19 Supervisor to enforce this guidance. A designated COVID-19 Supervisor shall be present on the construction site at all times during construction activities. The COVID-19 Supervisor can be an on-site worker who is designated to carry this role.

2. Post, in areas visible to all workers, required hygienic practices including not touching face with unwashed hands or with gloves; washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, cleaning AND disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces such as work stations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, machines, shared tools, elevator control buttons, and doorknobs; covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing as well as other hygienic recommendations by the CDC.

3. Prevent gatherings of any size and practice social and physical distancing by maintaining a minimum 6-foot distance between all persons at all times (if essential work precludes 6-foot distancing, appropriate masks and PPE must be worn during all closer contact situations).
4. Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, face shields and face masks as appropriate for the activity being performed.

5. Discourage workers from using other workers’ phones, desks, offices, work tools and equipment. If sharing of tools or equipment is necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.

6. Place wash stations or hand sanitizers in multiple locations to encourage hand hygiene, at least 6 feet apart.

Failure to comply with Cal OSHA’s guidelines and the City checklist above shall be deemed as creating unsafe conditions and may result in withheld inspections until corrected. Serious violations may be reported to Cal OSHA for further enforcement action.

Other helpful recommended practices, however, not mandatory include:

A. Identifying “choke points” and “high risk areas” where workers are forced to stand together, such as hallways, hoists and elevators, break areas, smaller rooms, stairways, and control them so social distancing is maintained.

B. Minimize interactions when picking up or delivering equipment or materials, ensure minimum 6-foot separation.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you in keeping your project safely operating during the COVID-19 pandemic and please feel free to reach out should you have any questions.

Kind regards,

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