

Pepper Construction

Social Distancing Guidelines

March 25, 2020

Background

Over the past week, Executive Orders were declared for Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin. In these Orders, construction was deemed an essential operation and allowed to continue. However, the Orders indicate that to the extent individuals are using shared spaces, they must as much as reasonably possible, maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other persons. This applies to the members of our workforce who are engaged in Essential Business and Operations.

Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to reduce/eliminate close contact with other workers on our jobsites. For the purpose of this guideline, close contact is defined per CDC guidelines as work **within 6 feet** of other workers.

Collaboration, documentation and training

- Pepper teams shall collaborate and work with trade-partners to determine tasks that require more than one worker to accomplish, whether those workers are required to work **within 6 feet** of each other and if the use of additional personal protective equipment or alternative processes and procedures could be implemented to achieve proper spacing of workers.
- These teams will then determine which tasks may need to be postponed and which can continue.
- These tasks and corresponding processes and procedures shall be documented, and applicable workers shall be trained as to best comply with them.

NOTE

If the tasks on your jobsite put people in a situation where they cannot stay 6 feet apart, get creative, reach out to your peers, your supervisor and your safety team to brainstorm a solution. Can it be accomplished differently? Can we safely and reasonably use additional PPE? We are all in this together.

Bottom line, put everyone's health and safety first.

Guidelines to achieve the reduction of close contact

- Task planning and coordination
 - Meetings shall be held regularly (e.g. daily) to coordinate work between all contractors on site and within individual work crews in a way that will promote the reduction of close contact between workers.
- Breaks
 - Crews members must not be in close contact during breaks. If necessary, break times shall be staggered, additional break areas shall be created, or breaks shall be taken outside.
 - If allowed, breaks can be taken in work areas to allow for proper spacing.
 - Shanties or dividers/barricades shall be erected if necessary.
- Jobsite logistics
 - All trade gang boxes shall be separated by at least 6 feet.
 - Elevator and personnel hoist use:
 - If elevators or other personnel hoists are utilized, the maximum number of occupants shall be determined to achieve proper spacing. The hoist or elevator operator shall enforce the maximum number of occupants.
 - The use of stairwells shall be promoted.
 - Staggered start times may be required to reduce the number of workers entering the site at the same time.
 - Where possible, provide multiple points of access to limit the proximity of workers as they arrive and leave the site.
- Shift schedule
 - In addition to staggered start times, multiple shifts may be necessary to achieve proper spacing of workers.
- Meetings
 - All meetings shall be held either via teleconference or in a space that allows proper spacing.
 - All safety lunches or project milestone celebrations must be postponed indefinitely until further notice.
- THA's, orientations and other safety meetings and training
 - These meetings shall be held in a manner that allows attendees to be at least 6 feet from each other. This may include performing the meeting in shifts or in a space large enough to meet achieve proper spacing.

Communication

- Postings (signs, posters) shall be placed throughout the project to educate and remind workers about proper spacing.

Related precautions to be taken

- Make every effort to NOT share tools. Tools shall be disinfected if shared and at the beginning of each shift.
- Bottled water only. No shared water coolers allowed until further notice.
- Continue to follow CDC personal hygiene protocols for hand washing and face touching.

Examples of alternate task procedures

- Installing drywall and other sheet goods
 - o Use equipment to assist with lifting and moving the material.
 - o Have workers at least 6' from each other by holding the ends of the material.
 - o Cut materials into smaller, more manageable sizes to allow one worker to lift and install the material.
- Moving materials
 - o Use a pallet jack and have one employee pull the handles while the other pushes from the other end.
 - o If large enough, have one worker on each end of the material.
 - o Use equipment to lift and move materials.
- Installing materials on boom lifts, scissor lifts and/or narrow frame rolling scaffolds, such as Baker or Perry lifts.
 - o Use a second lift or scaffold instead of both workers being on the same piece of equipment.