



**May 1, 2020 as of 2:15pm**

## An Update from MCAC on COVID-19

### Weekly Headlines:

[A Member Asked: Where Can I Find Online Training for At-Home Workers?](#)

[Workers Comp Rate Relief Hearing Date Set for May 18](#)

[Cal/OSHA Issues COVID-19 Construction Guidance Document](#)

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[Bay Area Construction Gets Back to Work May 4](#)

[MCAA Releases Updated COVID-19 Job Site Plan](#)

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A Note from Julie's Desk: With many California counties issuing updated shelter-in-place orders, it seems we are *finally* seeing some easing of restrictions in the very near future.

We are hearing from many of you that masonry construction is staying strong albeit operating in a very different business model. So, keep on keeping on everyone. Stay resilient, be ready to adapt on a dime and, most importantly, stay safe!

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### **I. COVID Q&A - A Member Asked: " Where Can I Find Online Classes to Keep Employees Productive While Home? Ex. OSHA 10, OSHA 30, Rigging, Traffic Control**

**Q.** While a good percentage of our crew is in the field, some projects have been put on hold and we have some at-risk employees which means we have people at home. Ideally we would like to have 80-90% of our workforce OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 certified. Now seems like an ideal time to pursue that goal AND keep our employees engaged while at home. Where are some good online training resources?

**A.** Online training sources are plentiful. Below are some options.

#### **OSHA 10 and 30**

- [OSHA 10 and 30 Authorized Online Outreach Training Providers](#)- Current OSHA-authorized online training providers. Trainers are independent service providers and their schedules and

fees may vary.

- [Environmental Health and Safety](#) - AGC of California Affinity Partner

**Construction Rigging** - See the OSHA 10 and 30 Authorized Online Outreach Training Providers list for additional potential providers.

- [Click Safety](#)
- [Pure Safety](#)

**Traffic Control** - See the OSHA 10 and 30 Authorized Online Outreach Training Providers list for additional potential providers.

- [American Traffic Safety Services Association](#)
- [Safety Center Incorporated](#)

**Bonus!** [MCAA's online education](#) offers a vast array of topics including Building Information Modeling (BIM), Masonry Anchoring, Safe Driving and Heat Safety. The best part? Most courses are **free** for MCAC/MCAA members.

## II. Workers Compensation Rate Relief Hearing Date Set for May 18, 2020

On April 20 the Workers Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau (WCIRB) submitted [3 proposed rule changes](#) to the California Department of Insurance in a special regulatory filing. As reported in our [April 17 briefing](#), these rule changes would offer employers relief in the following ways:

1. Exclude Payments to Employees Who Continue to Be Paid While Not Working
2. Exclude COVID-19 Claims from Experience Rating
3. Allow Assignment of Classification 8810 for Temporary Change in Duties

A [public hearing will be held by telephone May 18](#) to consider the WCIRB's proposal. We continue to monitor this story and will bring you updates.

## III. NEW! [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Infection Prevention in Construction](#)

On April 27 Cal/OSHA posted a [guidance document](#) (dated 4/24/2020) specifically designed to help construction employers comply with requirements to protect workers and to provide workers information on how to protect themselves and prevent the spread of the disease. The guidance is 5 pages with **helpful links throughout** and the **last page is full of additional resources for construction**.

## IV. Expense Reimbursement for Remote Employees

Most remote workers who now are working from home are there in response to their employer's request and instruction. As such, to the extent these employees are using their cell phones, internet and other electronics for work, they are doing so to perform their jobs. Therefore, the reasonable expenses associated with the use and maintenance of such equipment must be reimbursed.

Click [here](#) for guidance on the amount, the timing and ways to control those costs.

*Cook Brown LLP April 24, 2020 by Christopher Moores*

## V. Bay Area and Nor Cal Counties Extend Shelter-in-Place Orders...But There's Good News

On April 29 seven Bay Area jurisdictions extended their Shelter-in-Place Orders through May 31, 2020. [The Bay Area amendments take effect May 4 and loosen previous restrictions and permit all construction](#) as long as safety protocols are followed.

*"All construction activities, certain businesses that operate primarily outdoors, and some outdoor activities will be allowed to resume with specific conditions." [April 29, 2020 Press Release](#)*

[The safety protocols vary by project size](#) Click [here](#) to read a recap of the size variances as outlined by MCAC Associate Member, Sweeney Mason, LLP.

- Link to Bay Area Orders: [Alameda](#), [Contra Costa](#), [Marin](#), [Santa Clara](#), [San Francisco](#), [San Mateo](#), and [Santa Cruz](#))
- Link to [AGC California County Guideline](#) AGC of California is working with owners and public agencies statewide to clarify what construction remains essential. I have found it to be regularly updated.

Also on April 29 [Sacramento County](#) extended its Order through May 22, 2020.

My home [county of Yolo](#) followed the Bay Area and extended our lockdown through May 31. Construction was released from activity restrictions subject to social distancing and other COVID safety protocols.

Of course, all regional Orders remain a moving target as COVID-19 risks continue to be assessed both locally and statewide.

## **VI. Updated Job Site COVID-19 Plan Template**

On April 27 the Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA) released an update of the March 25 COVID-19 Exposure Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plan. The plan was developed by a consortium of 25 construction associations. It is a template meant to be reviewed and tailored as necessary. Download the editable Word document available [here](#).

If you are using the MCAA template, make sure you are using the most current version and that it also adheres to state and local ordinances. If you are using a different plan, make sure it is being updated to comply with the rapidly evolving COVID-19 criteria.

## **VII. Access MCAC COVID-19 Updates and Resources [Online](#) at [www.mca-ca.org](http://www.mca-ca.org)**

- [MCAC Home Page - COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [MCAA COVID-19 Resource List](#)

**"We hurt together, we struggle together and, believe me, we endure together."**

Thank you Dennis Withsosky of New Dimension Masonry for sharing this quote from our nation's leader. It is very befitting the time we are in and this group of people.

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Sincerely,

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