



OUR 57TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

May 2020

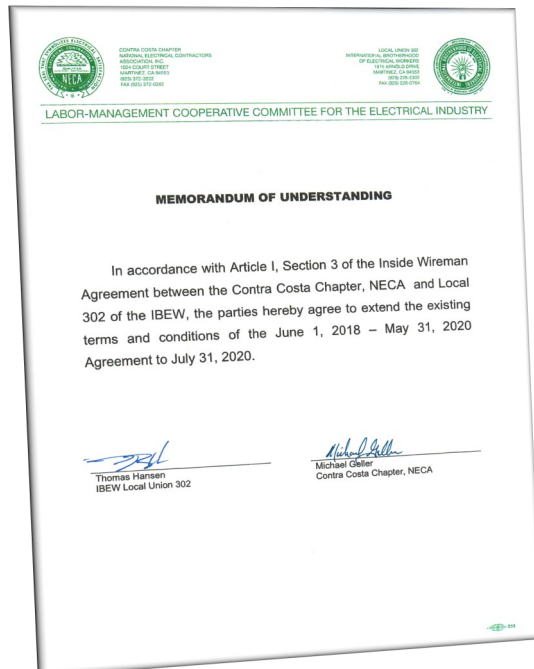
Inside Wireman Agreement

between

Local Union 302 IBEW and Contra Costa Chapter, NECA

2018 - 2020

UPDATE ON 2020 INSIDE NEGOTIATIONS



Among all the other changes the COVID-19 virus has caused in the world, it has also impacted our negotiation process over our Inside Wireman Agreement with Local 302. The Order from the Contra Costa County Health Department, originally issued in March, with several subsequent revisions, prohibits public and private meetings of any kind. The negotiating teams met on March 5th to exchange proposals, but have had to postpone further meetings because of the Order.

Earlier this week the parties agreed to a two month extension to the agreement, which takes us through July 31, 2020. The CIR also postponed the scheduled May session until mid-July. As of today, our plan is to meet for a series of meetings in the month of June, assuming the Order is modified to allow us to meet.

For the time being, all terms and conditions (wages, fringe benefits, hours of work, etc.) will remain the same through July 31, 2020.

Navigating in Uncharted Waters

NECA, Inc. WEBSITE RESOURCE CENTER

NECA, Inc. has made their eSafetyLine COVID-19 Module available to all members. The module contains a written Infectious Disease Program, COVID-19 Protection Plan, Checklist, Visitor Screening Form, Pre-Entry Survey, and On-The-Job Training materials.

Module Content

Management and Administration

[Infectious Disease Program](#)
[COVID-19 Protection Plan](#)
[COVID-19 Protection Checklist](#)
[OSHA Risk Assessment Criteria](#)
[Pre-Entry Survey](#)
[NIOSH Hierarchy of Controls](#)
[Essential Employee Letter](#)
[Employee Notification Letter](#)
[Visitor Screening Tool](#)
[OSHA's Workplace Guidance](#)
[OSHA's COVID-19 Web Page](#)
[CDC Coronavirus Website](#)

Training and Communication

Talk | [Understanding COVID-19](#)
Talk | [Assessing the Risk](#)
Talk | [Symptoms and Response](#)
Talk | [Basic Protection Methods](#)
Talk | [Social Distancing](#)
Activity | [Policies and Work Practices](#)
Activity | [Entering Occupied Buildings](#)
Activity | [Visitor Screening Tool](#)
Test | [COVID-19 Test](#)

Formerly, the NECA Safety Expert System, the NECA eSafetyLine is the paid subscription service that NECA offers to its members that provides users with a company safety manual, written safety programs, NFPA 70E PPE Selector, Lockout Guide, and Supervisors Guide. Additional program features include a library of wireman talks; lineman talks and robust recordkeeping system. The news and information section changes monthly and the features, functions, and content are updated quarterly. While the COVID-19 Module is free to all members, you may want to look into the merits of the entire program.

NECA, Inc. also recently updated its guidance on PPP Loan Forgiveness in the form of Questions and Answers, which can be accessed [here](#).

STATEWIDE RESOURCES

Eddie Bernacchi, our legislative advocate in Sacramento has focused his efforts on the aspects of COVID-19 unique to California, especially with regard to proposed regulations that would exclude COVID-19 claims from your experience mod. Click [here](#) to see the latest Politico Alert.

Cal/OSHA

[Safety and Health Guidance “COVID-19 Infection Prevention in Construction”](#)

California employers are required to establish and implement an Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) to protect employees from worksite hazards, including infectious diseases. This guidance does not impose any new legal obligations. It contains information for construction employers on ways to update their IIPPs to include information on employee training and preventing the spread of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes COVID-19, at construction sites. This is mandatory in most California workplaces since COVID-19 is widespread in the community.

LOCAL LEVEL

REVISED HEALTH ORDER

Effective at 11:59 p.m. on May 3, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2020, or until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

It appears the revised Order from the Contra Costa Health Services Department will allow all construction to go forward, provided the employers meet the requirements in Appendix B-1 or B-2, which are determined by the size of the Project.

Revised Order Documentation from the Contra Costa Health Services Department

- [Full Health Order](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)
- [Press Release](#)
- [Bay Area Health Officers' Indicators for Assessing Progress on Containing COVID-19](#)
- [Appendix A: Social Distancing Protocol form \(updated April 29, 2020\)](#)
- [Appendix B-1: Small Construction Project Safety Protocol](#)
- [Appendix B-2: Large Construction Project Safety Protocol](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Germ-Spreading Habits to Give Up Now

Read whole article [here](#).

Using bar soap.

Sure, soap cleans hands, but bars are actually breeding grounds for germs when they're used by multiple people. Opt for liquid soap formulas instead.

Sharing hand towels.

Sharing is caring—except when it comes to germs. Do your family a favour and give every member of the household his or her very own hand towel for the bathroom. Launder the towels at least once a week—or more, if you have small kids—to prevent bacteria buildup in fabric.



Texting on the toilet.

When nature calls, germs (including fecal matter!) are released into the air and can land on surfaces... like your phone. Even if you wash your hands before leaving the bathroom, that bacteria is still stuck on your screen. Leave your phone behind the next time you make a trip to the restroom.

Drying hands with the air dryer.

Using a public restroom? You may want to skip the air dryer to dry hands. Here's why: A [study](#) published in *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* found that they can disperse bacteria throughout the room, including onto just-washed hands. Gross! Your best bet when in public? Use paper towels (and use them to open any doors to avoid picking up germs on your way out). If there are no paper towels, just shake your hands dry.

Leaving the toilet lid up when flushing.

That lid is there for a reason! According to the [American Journal of Infection Control](#), when you flush, the contents of the toilet (water and otherwise) get tossed around, sending a spray flying into the air that contains microscopic bacteria. If you don't close the toilet lid, the bacteria can contaminate your hands, bathroom surfaces, and even objects like toothbrushes.



Opening things with your teeth.

Yes, sometimes when you can't get a package open, it may seem more convenient (and, occasionally, more effective!) to get it started using your choppers. However, not only can this be potentially damaging to your teeth, but it can also spread germs. In addition to the germs from your own mouth being transferred to the package, you're also making contact with any germs that were already present on the packaging.

Blowing out birthday candles.

Unless your birthday wish is to have germs all over your cake, you might want to reconsider this common tradition. When you blow out candles, you release bacteria that's been inside your mouth. And guess where it goes? Toward the target of that air: the surface of the cake. While there's a slim chance of actually getting sick from these germs, it's still a little icky—especially since a [study](#) showed that blowing out candles causes the amount of bacteria on the surface of a cake to increase by 1,400 per cent.



Eating at your desk.

Now you have an excuse to get up, walk around, and actually take a *break* during your lunch break. Not to gross you out, but your computer keyboard is most likely home to some serious germs, unless you clean it regularly. If you eat your food on the same surface as your keyboard, you run the risk of ingesting those germs, which are definitely not on the menu!

POLITICO ALERT

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Statewide SIP Order Updated - All Construction Activities Still Authorized

The Newsom administration has updated the critical infrastructure worker definitions that apply to the statewide shelter in place (SIP) order. All construction activities continue to be authorized under the statewide order. The designation of "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers" for the construction industry can be found under the new sector title of ["Industrial, Commercial, Residential and Sheltering Facilities and Services."](#)

Bay Area SIP Order Updated – All Construction May Resume

The seven Bay Area jurisdictions (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, as well as the city of Berkeley which has its own health department), who had previously issued very restrictive shelter in place (SIP) orders related to construction, have officially updated and extended their SIP orders through May 31st.

Under the new orders, all construction activities will be allowed to resume so long as projects comply with strict safety protocols. Authorized construction under the new Bay Area orders, is now the same as what is authorized in the statewide SIP order. Please note that the Bay Area orders additionally require that projects meet the "Construction Safety Protocols" listed in "Appendix B" which is incorporated into the Bay Area orders by reference.

You can review a version of the new Bay Area orders [here](#). "Appendix B" information can be found at the very bottom of the orders. The new orders take effect May 4th.

Cal/OSHA Issues Industry Specific Guidance

Cal/OSHA has issued [guidance](#) to the construction industry on COVID-19 jobsite safety practices. While some counties and agencies have issued guidelines individually, this is the first industry specific guidance issued by Cal/OSHA on COVID-19 worker protections. This guidance should be used as a baseline. It's encouraged that contractors update their safety plans to include the Cal/OSHA provisions as minimum guidelines.

WCIRB Proposes Critical Exemptions

We are advocating for the adoption of Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau of California (WCIRB) [proposed regulations](#) that would exclude COVID-19 claims from a contractor's experience modification rating and also exclude, from reported payroll, payments made to employees who are continuing to be paid while not engaged in any work activities. Each of the proposed regulations will provide a significant benefit to contractors. The next step in the process is approval by the Insurance Commissioner at a hearing scheduled for May 18th. We are working to

May 2020



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Shelter-In-Place

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[Webinar](#) 11:00 a.m.
Culture, Coronavirus
and Recovery

Shelter-In-Place

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Mother's
Day

Shelter-In-Place

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Off-Day

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Shelter-In-Place

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Memorial Day

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Shelter-In-Place