SAFETY NEWS

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BLUE SURGICAL FACE MASKS
The Southern Illinois Builders Association and Southern Illinois Construction Advancement Program have obtained approximately 2,500 masks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and would like to offer these to our members for a discounted rate. We will be selling the masks in increments of 50 for 50 cents per mask. A minimal fee will be charged if we ship them. The shipping fee will be determined by distance. Please contact the SIBA office at 618-624-9055 to reserve your masks. Masks may be picked up at the SIBA Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday through Friday. Call ahead and we will have someone bring them out to your vehicle when you arrive.

OSHA ISSUES GUIDANCE TO HELP CONSTRUCTION WORKERS DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has launched a webpage with coronavirus-related guidance for construction employers and workers. The guidance includes recommended actions to reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus.

Employers of workers engaged in construction (such as carpentry, ironworking, plumbing, electrical, heating/air conditioning/ventilation, utility construction work, and earth-moving activities) should remain alert to changing outbreak conditions, including as they relate to community spread of the virus and testing availability. In response to changing conditions, employers should implement coronavirus infection prevention measures accordingly.

The webpage includes information regarding:
• Using physical barriers, such as walls, closed doors, or plastic sheeting, to separate workers from individuals experiencing signs or symptoms consistent with the coronavirus.
• Keeping in-person meetings (including toolbox talks and safety meetings) as short as possible, limiting the number of workers in attendance, and using social distancing practices.
• Screening calls when scheduling indoor construction work to assess potential exposures and circumstances in the work environment before worker entry.
• Requesting that shared spaces in home environments where construction activities are being performed, or other construction areas in occupied buildings, have good air flow; and
• Staggering work schedules, such as alternating workdays or extra shifts, to reduce the total number of employees on a job site at any given time and to ensure physical distancing.

Visit OSHA’s coronavirus webpage frequently for updates. For further information about the coronavirus, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to help ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education, and assistance. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

The mission of the Department of Labor is to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

Source: *Information from US Department of Labor News Release May 26, 2020*