



PLUMBERS UNION NO. 15

708 SO. TENTH STREET MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55404

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March 27, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

There has been a lot going on over the past couple weeks disrupting all of our lives. I believe that it is critical to provide you with an update during these unprecedented times we are all living in. First and foremost, I pray that you and your families are healthy and safe. Please be sure to look out for one another and do what you can to follow the recommendations from good credible sources. We have been and will continue to constantly monitor guidance from governmental agencies, public health organizations, trade organizations, and guidance available to us through our State Building Trades and our Local Union Legal Counsel. We are also staying in close regular contact with the United Association to keep up with the latest guidelines and resources to benefit our members.

We have updated our website at www.plumberslocal15.com to provide you with resources to help you learn more about COVID-19 and how to live in this world changed by it, and also information on how it relates to our industry including how to minimize risk of exposure while continuing to go to work. Please take the time to view the information and links provided there.

As most of you are probably aware, Governor Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-20 directing Minnesotans to stay at home. A copy of the full Order is posted on our website. The order went into effect Friday, March 27, 2020 at 11:59 pm, and remains in effect through Friday, April 10, 2020 at 5:00 pm. There are exemptions for "Critical Sectors" under this order for Construction and Critical Trades. *This category includes workers in the skilled trades such as Electricians, Plumbers, HVAC and Elevator Technicians, and other related construction of all kind...*

As an essential skilled trade and falling under this exemption, **what does this mean?** We should be expecting to go to work as you normally would. If you are unable to go to work for any reason you should contact your employer. If your jobsite is shut down or experiencing a delay, apply for Unemployment benefits. The waiting week has been waived, and you are not required to sign the list or look for work if it is expected that you will return to your employer when the work resumes. If you feel sick stay home and follow Minnesota Department of Health Guidelines. We would like to keep the jobsites as safe as possible so that our members can continue working and receiving wages and benefits.

In accordance with the current guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Urging of our Governor, and direction from the U.A. General Office, access to the Union Offices will be limited to those who have an appointment only. We will remain open but limiting the amount of staff in the office at the same time. There is very little business that we could not assist you with over the phone or through electronic correspondence. If you are unsure who to contact by email, or do not know an email address you can simply send your question to office@plumberslocal15.com and we will see to it that it gets handled accordingly.

We are continuing to assess the current situation daily, and how it is impacting our Local Union and our members. I am certain that there will be questions and challenges that we all will face over the coming weeks if not months, but we are a strong Union, made up of good people that will make good decisions. We will consider each issue we face on a case by case basis with our goal to keep our members working safely, and keeping jobs going. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Scott Gale

Business Manager