WORKPLACE SAFETY

We are posting a list of safety precautions that we recommend all HVAC contractors implement into business operations during this difficult time.

You can also find a guide for workplace preparation from OSHSA in the documents page.

HVAC Contractors are deemed Essential Services by Homeland Security and will continue to provide their services to clients for their protection and comfort. They can also provide clients with information on UV lights, Air Scrubbers and HEPA filters to assist during these unfortunate events by providing solutions.

However, we do feel that there are some safety measures that can be taken to ensure the spread of the illness is mitigated. We encourage HVAC owners to put in place Protective Protocols to not only prevent the spread of the illness, but to protect their employees and their businesses.

We recommend the following Protective Protocols:

- Require your schedulers / dispatchers to start asking clients when they dispatch the call if anyone in the home is in quarantine? Make sure this info is passed onto the technician.

- Have your technicians ask clients before entering homes if anyone in the home is ill.

- Make gloves, masks, hand sanitizer and disposable coveralls available to your techs so that in the case someone is ill or is in quarantine, that they can take the proper steps in order to protect themselves and others.

- Keep Social Distancing of 6 ft from any occupants in the home.

- Have technicians use alcohol swabs to wipe down thermostats before and after service.

- Remind employee’s to wash their hands often & especially after house calls or maintenance.

- Have technicians disinfect their tools and vehicles each day when returning to the office.

- Take advantage of suppliers offering delivery, drive-thru services, or carry out to limit exposure. Put on gloves when opening supplies! Coronavirus can live on objects for 3 or more days.

- Keep records! In the event that one of your employees contracts the virus, authorities will more than likely want a timeline of where they have been.

- If employee’s are sick, have them stay home!

- Be mindful of the high risk individuals:

Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html
SBA Disaster Assistance
The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

SBA Express Bridge Loans
Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program allows small businesses who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to $25,000 with less paperwork. These loans can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing and can be a term loans or used to bridge the gap while applying for a direct SBA Economic Injury Disaster loan. If a small business has an urgent need for cash while waiting for decision and disbursement on Economic Injury Disaster Loan, they may qualify for an SBA Express Disaster Bridge Loan.

Terms:

- Up to $25,000
- Fast turnaround
- Will be repaid in full or in part by proceeds from the EIDL loan

Find an Express Bridge Loan Lender via SBA’s Lender Match Tool or by connecting with your local SBA District

Preparing Workplaces for a COVID-19 Outbreak
Businesses and employers can prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19. Employers should plan to respond in a flexible way to varying levels of disease transmission in the community and be prepared to refine their business response plans as needed.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), most American workers will likely experience low (caution) or medium exposure risk levels at their job or place of employment (see OSHA guidance for employers pdf for more information about job risk classifications).
Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Questions and Answers

As provided under the legislation, the U.S. Department of Labor will be issuing implementing regulations. Additionally, as warranted, the Department will continue to provide compliance assistance to employers and employees on their responsibilities and rights under the FFCRA.

DEFINITIONS

“Expanded family and medical leave” – means paid leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act.

HVAC Business Owners should read!

The Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Office of Emergency Management lead the state response.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention leads the U.S. response.

The World Health Organization global response.
Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19

HVAC Business Owners should read!

MEMORANDUM ON IDENTIFICATION OF ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS DURING COVID-19 RESPONSE

Final Family Cares Act HR 748

The Premier NW Heating and Cooling Association