JAY INSLEE
Governor

STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Stakeholders

FROM: Governor Jay Inslee

DATE: March 25, 2020

SUBJECT: Construction Guidance – Stay Home, Stay Healthy Proclamation (20-25)

In general, commercial and residential construction is not authorized under the Proclamation because construction is not considered to be an essential activity.

However, an exception to the order allows for construction in the following limited circumstances:

a) Construction related to essential activities as described in the order;
b) To further a public purpose related to a public entity or governmental function or facility, including but not limited to publicly financed low-income housing; or
c) To prevent spoliation and avoid damage or unsafe conditions, and address emergency repairs at both non-essential businesses and residential structures.

To that end, it is permissible for workers who are building, construction superintendents, tradesmen, or tradeswomen, or other trades including, but not limited to, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, laborers, sheet metal, iron workers, masonry, pipe trades, fabricators, heavy equipment and crane operators, finishers, exterminators, pesticide applicators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC technicians, painting, moving and relocation services, forestry and arborists, and other service providers to provide services consistent with this guidance.

All construction activity must meet social distancing and appropriate health and worker protection measures before proceeding.