



A publication of the  
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association  
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[www.oraaggregate.com](http://www.oraaggregate.com)

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## Oregon Independent Aggregate Association Newsletter

**March 2020**

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### **Chairman's Message**

Strange times are upon us. Between concerns for personal health, the health of loved ones, financial stability, employment, and managing the kids at home, this is a challenge for everyone. It will take time for all of us to adapt and move forward from the COVID-19 pandemic. Attached with this newsletter is a publication from the Oregon Employment Department with a variety of potentially helpful links and resources for mine owners, employers, and employees. OIAA will continue to share resources with you as we become aware of them. If any of you find helpful information that could benefit others in the industry, please forward to us so we can distribute to the membership.

Try to have faith and patience with those around you. Personally, I am encouraged by the willingness of people to accept what are ultimately correctable issues over the short term so we can minimize the potentially devastating impacts others might face by losing their lives or a loved one.

Please be safe, do what you can to protect and help others, and we will all get through this together.

**Erick Staley**  
**Chairman**

To access the publication referenced in the Chairman message right click on the link and select "Open Hyperlink "

[https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment\\_COVID19](https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19)

Click on the "WorkSource Oregon Resource Guide" button.

# MSHA Response to COVID-19

The Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) mission is to protect the safety and health of the nation's miners. As long as miners continue to work at a mine, MSHA will continue to perform its statutorily-required essential functions within the parameters of the President's and Department's guidance, as well as that of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

MSHA has received a high volume of questions regarding the Coronavirus/COVID-19 and both mine operator actions and MSHA actions in response. This information sheet provides practices for operators and miners to minimize the spread of Coronavirus/COVID-19 and actions MSHA is taking to do the same.

## What should mine operators and miners do?

**Avoid close contact:** Put distance between yourself and other people (about 6 feet). This includes not crowding personnel carriers, hoists and elevators, or other means of transportation at the mine.

**Clean and disinfect:** Wipe down equipment and other frequently touched surfaces.

**Wash hands:** If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.

Stay at home if you are sick.

See additional guidance on the CDC's Prevention page <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

## What actions is MSHA taking?

MSHA is abiding by the [President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America](#), which are based on the [CDC Interim Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential Coronavirus Disease 2019](#).

MSHA will continue to perform its essential functions, including mandatory inspections, serious accident investigations, and investigations of hazard complaints (imminent danger or serious in nature).

For the pendency of the President's national emergency declaration, MSHA has suspended Educational Field and Small Mine Services visits, as well as special safety and fatality initiatives that normally would gather groups of miners on-site to discuss powered haulage, electrocution, and contractor safety.

To the extent feasible, inspectors are maintaining distance from miners while performing inspections.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration will work with mine operators when it comes to the following recertifications:

Annual refresher training certification (30 CFR Part 46)

Surface and underground annual refresher training certification (30 CFR Part 48)

Certified person; sampling (30 CFR §§ 70/71/90.202)

Certified person; maintenance and calibration (30 CFR §§ 70/71/90.203)

Exemptions to recertifications will not be granted; however, their due dates will be extended by at least the time the government is operating under the President's emergency declaration.

*Please note: This exception does not apply to new miner training. New miners must be trained before beginning work. Once the Emergency Declaration is lifted, mine operators should work with their respective district offices to ensure that all certifications are conducted in a timely manner.*

MSHA supports operators' efforts to minimize the spread of the Coronavirus/COVID-19, including screenings or questionnaires, and will encourage our inspectors to participate on a voluntary basis.

MSHA is following all protocols for identifying MSHA inspectors or other employees exhibiting symptoms or who have had potential exposure, asking them to quarantine at home, and cleaning the relevant offices following CDC guidelines.

MSHA recognizes that some mining operations are not running at full capacity and have limited crews working. If a mine operator alerts MSHA to changes in production at a site, MSHA will, to the extent possible, limit the number of inspectors sent to that mine for a regular inspection proportional with the mine's continuing operations.

If you have questions regarding MSHA requirements, including reporting, certifications, or plan submissions, or updates on the status of your operations and staff on-site, please contact the appropriate MSHA District Office (<https://www.msha.gov/about/program-areas/metal-and-nonmetal-mine-safety-and-health>; <https://www.msha.gov/about/program-areas/coal-mine-safety-and-health>).

Many state and local governments have issued emergency orders imposing closure and shelter-in-place restrictions for citizens and businesses. MSHA does not have jurisdiction to enforce or implement these emergency orders. If you have concerns regarding state and local emergency orders or compliance with those emergency orders, please contact the appropriate state or local government office.

MSHA will be assessing overdue Annual Refresher Training on a case-by-case basis and giving a 30-day grace period. This will be reevaluated as the situation continues to develop and may be extended, particularly if the nation continues to be in a declared state of emergency. Regarding the “case-by-case” point, where an operation may have a small number of employees (e.g. under 10) they may not apply the 30-day grace period rule, compared to a situation where a larger number of people will be present in an area for training

### **Recommending Internal Guidance for Inspectors**

Although at this time MSHA does not plan on issuing written public guidance, they have said they are working on internal guidance for inspectors. We are making recommendations based on members' concerns and questions to influence that internal guidance to minimize burden on operators and keep plants in operation.

### ***2020 Board of Directors***

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Next Board meeting is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. Location to be determined.

*Note meeting date is subject to change in light of the COVID-19 pandemic*

**Our Board is sending you wishes for good health during this Coronavirus crisis.  
If you have any questions or concerns that we may help you with please contact us at**

**[memberreply@oraggregate.com](mailto:memberreply@oraggregate.com)**

**Stay Safe, Stay Healthy**