



Weekly Safety Meetings COVID-19 Supplement

Training to Enhance Employee Safety and Health

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Dustin Construction, Inc.

June 2020

COVID-19: Do Masks Make a Difference?

Wearing masks does make a difference. One way the new coronavirus spreads, is by riding on the droplets that come out of our mouths and noses when we speak, breathe, cough, and sneeze. Cloth masks catch a lot of those droplets and keep them from getting to someone else.

Masks: We're now being asked or required to wear masks at the grocery store, to pick up carryout at a restaurant, and on some jobsites. You might feel confused about masks, and that's fair, because we were originally told not to buy or wear masks. But now there is newer and better information from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Wearing a simple cloth mask on the jobsite can help keep others safe, especially when you can't maintain the social distancing buffer of 6 feet. Wearing a mask is important even if you don't have symptoms.

Cloth masks do not qualify as construction PPE. They will not protect you from dust, chemicals, fumes, or any other typical respiratory hazard on a construction site!

Masks will only work to protect you and those around you when they're worn properly.

- Try not to touch your mask when you have it on. If you touch it by accident, wash your hands.
- Try to not put it on and take it off frequently.
- At the end of the day, take it off by loosening the ties, not by grabbing the front of it. Put it in a plastic bag, take it home, and wash it. Wash your hands after you remove your mask.

Your mask should:

- Cover your nose and mouth.
- Fit snugly but comfortably against your nose, the tops of your cheeks, and the sides of your face.
- Be secured with ties or ear loops.
- Include multiple layers of fabric.
- Allow you to breathe easily.
- Be easy to wash and dry without changing shape or being damaged.

What about beards? If you've worn respiratory protection on the jobsite, you know that you can't get a proper seal if you have a full beard. Even though cloth masks don't really seal to your face like a respirator, beards still reduce their effectiveness. However, wearing a cloth mask over a beard is still better than not wearing a mask at all.

Masks can be uncomfortable and they can be hot. They can get soggy from sweat and from your breath. You may need to have several on hand to get you through your shift.

Cloth masks need to be cleaned between uses. The easiest way to wash cloth masks is to wash them with your regular laundry in a washing machine.

Masks make a difference. Don't be shy about wearing yours.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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Cloth masks are not respirators!

NOTES:

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

S.A.F.E. CARDS® PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:

REVIEWED SDS #

SUBJECT:

MEETING DOCUMENTATION:

JOB NAME:

MEETING DATE:

SUPERVISOR:

ATTENDEES:

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.