

Covid 19: Protecting the Workforce - Site Operating Procedures

In these exceptional times MPA Health and Safety is seeking to assist members who are facing difficult decisions and complex problems as a result of the current crisis.

We are sharing the following information produced by the Government's Construction Leadership Council which may be helpful in determining the approach to protecting workers on sites which remain open. Although aimed specifically at construction sites, the guidance contained translates well into our sector. The information in this Direct should not be regarded as superseding any emerging or new guidance from Government. Members should at all times follow guidance from Public Health England and other government authorities

Construction Leadership Council – Site Operating procedures can be found here:

<http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Site-Operating-Procedures-23-March-2020.pdf>

More information (including a useful poster which could be printed on site/distributed member sites) can be found at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance> - PHE

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> - NHS
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873785/COVID19_Guidance_Employers_and_businesses_.pdf - POSTER

Members will be well aware that emergency services will themselves be very stretched during this time of crisis. This may impact on their ability to respond as quickly as usual. Site risk assessments should therefore take this into account. Employers should consider the extent to which tasks are essential for the day to day running of their operations – don't do anything you don't need to. Risk assessments should also consider the proximity in which operators would need to work when carrying out a task. Is this likely to expose them to the risk of exposure to Covid 19 and if so, what controls should be put in place to mitigate this risk?

Public Safety

Please remember that whilst members of public should be staying at home, some may be tempted to find isolated spots where they can relax and enjoy being outside. Disused quarries, active or temporarily inactive quarries, especially those with water, could seem appealing to people who may want to enjoy fresh air, a rural setting and water where they are less likely to be observed. As most other leisure facilities are closed, these sites may become even more alluring. Please ensure that warning signage and fencing is intact at these sites and consider whether any further measures might be appropriate.

For more information contact Tony Entwistle: tony.entwistle@mineralproducts.org

Register on the MPA members' site at <https://members.mineralproducts.org> by filling out the on-screen form. You will then be sent a validation email for access to a wealth of information on the mineral products industry.

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