

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
APRIL 2020

Director's Comments:



2020 has already shaped up as one of the most eventful years ever, and April certainly added to it for all the wrong reasons. Alabama, like the rest of the world, continues to feel the impact of the COVID-19 "Coronavirus" Pandemic. Additionally, we are now in severe weather season and saw several destructive storms and tornadoes hit our state during the month.

Because of the Coronavirus, Governor Kay Ivey issued a "Stay at Home" order beginning on April 4th, and continuing through April 30th. This week she announced a new "Safer at Home" plan as the first steps in reopening the state. This order will run from the expiration of the previous order on April 30th and continue until 5:00 p.m. on May 15th.

While our industry has been fortunate to be deemed "essential" and remain open during this time, there has still been a significant impact felt on us all. The economy, which had been as strong as ever, now finds itself in a precarious position with many businesses forced to close and millions of workers having lost their jobs.

AUCA has had to postpone our meetings and events, and undoubtedly new norms such as "social distancing" and laws requiring the wearing of face masks in public will continue to make our lives radically different than they were before.

I pray that we will all get through this with our health, and use this uncertain time to draw closer to God and become less reliant on ourselves and the fleeting idols of this world.

Tim

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ALABAMA'S NEW SAFER AT HOME ORDER

Effective: April 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. | Expiration: May 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

WHAT'S NEW?

	CURRENT STAY AT HOME ORDER	NEW SAFER AT HOME ORDER
Individuals	<i>Ordered</i> to stay at home except to meet basic needs	<i>Encouraged</i> to stay home and follow good sanitation practices
Employers	Businesses <i>closed</i> except for those that meet a critical need or pose a minimal risk; sanitation and social-distancing rules and guidelines for remaining businesses	Businesses may open subject to sanitation and social-distancing guidelines; certain higher-risk businesses and activities remain closed
Retail stores	<i>Essential</i> retail stores open subject to 50% occupancy rate, social-distancing and sanitation rules	All retail stores open subject to 50% occupancy rate, social-distancing and sanitation rules
Beaches	Closed for all purposes	Open except no gatherings of 10 persons or more and people must maintain 6 feet of separation
Medical procedures	<i>Postponed</i> except for those deemed "necessary" under various criteria as determined	<i>Allowed</i> unless prohibited in the future by the State Health Officer to preserve resources necessary to diagnose and treat COVID-19; providers must follow COVID-19-related rules and guidance from state regulatory boards or public health authorities

WHAT IS STAYING THE SAME?

Non-work gatherings	Still limited to fewer than 10 persons with 6 feet of distance between persons. "Drive-in" gatherings still permitted if participants stay in cars with people from their own households.
Entertainment venues (such as night clubs, theaters, bowling alleys)	Still closed
Athletic facilities and activities (such as fitness centers and commercial gyms)	Still closed
Close-contact service providers (such as barber shops, hair salons, nail salons, tattoo services)	Still closed
Senior Citizen Centers	Regular programming still suspended except meals still available through curbside pick-up or delivery
Educational institutions	Educational institutions still closed to in-person instruction (except for daytime special activities programs)
Child day care facilities	Still must not allow 12 or more children in a room
Hospitals and nursing homes	Still must implement policies to restrict visitation
Restaurants, bars, and breweries	Still limited to take-out, curbside, or delivery

4/2020

alabamapublichealth.gov



Alabama Legislative News:

The 2020 Alabama Legislative Session is scheduled to reconvene on May 4th in Montgomery. Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic, the State House will be closed to the public, and Legislators will be practicing "social distancing" requirements.

For the remainder of the session, which per the Alabama Constitution must end no later than May 18th (the 105th calendar day from the start of the session), the only items on their agenda will be passing the Education and General Fund Budgets, as well as local bills. The legislature plans to adjourn sine die once these issues have been addressed.



However, Governor Ivey has indicated that her preference would be to wait until later in the summer and call a special session to address the budgets. Her reasoning is that by then legislators would have a better understanding of revenue projections and a full picture of receipts after July 15th because of the extended state tax filing deadline due to COVID-19.

Another issue that has come to the forefront through the Coronavirus crisis that could positively impact our industry is the desire to expand broadband throughout the state. While this is not a new issue, the result of all schools being closed and learning taking place online, as well as telemedicine due to the closure of hospitals and medical clinics, has caused many to want to move quickly to address it.

Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh said he hoped to put \$800 million of an estimated \$1.7 billion in federal dollars given to Alabama for COVID-19 relief efforts to push broadband throughout the state. "We want it affordable for these families, and with these dollars, we think it can happen," he said. Senator Marsh believes the money could be appropriated through the budget process and that if the money was approved, his "goal" would be expanding broadband throughout the state by 2022.

Remember to check our "Legislative Pipeline" email report for Legislative updates



Upcoming Events:

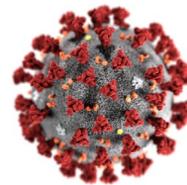
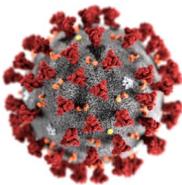
Water Week 2020 – Insights from Washington, DC

Complimentary Webinar

April 29, 2020 | 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Although the in-person events during Water Week have been canceled, please join us for a complimentary webinar to hear the latest from key federal policymakers. We know you value hearing directly from EPA and Congress, so we are bringing the latest insights to your computer during Water Week 2020. Join us to hear the latest water policy developments from EPA senior staff, messages from Members of Congress about the value of water sector advocacy, and updates from key Water Week partners. Don't miss this unparalleled opportunity to hear from these key policymakers.

[Click here to Register](#)



Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus, our Spring General Meeting, Golf Tournament and Crawfish Boil has been postponed. We are exploring options for rescheduling the event. As soon as we have additional details, we will let you know.

***AUCA 2020 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil
Arrowhead Country Club - Montgomery, AL***

***AUCA 2020 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot
Thursday, October 15, 2020
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - Montgomery, AL***



News & Notes:

AUCA Scholarship Program:

- AUCA will be awarding two (2) Scholarships worth \$1,500 each.
- Money will be paid directly to the College or Trade School of the applicant's choice.
- The Scholarship Committee will select the two winners from AUCA member company employees, or immediate family members that apply before the April 30th deadline.
- Applications are available on the AUCA website:



<http://www.aluca.org/scholarship-program.html>

2020 U.S. Census - Alabama Counts!

Through April 21st, only 49.7% of Alabamians had completed the 2020 census. The census is used to determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the United States Congress. Alabama is potentially at risk of losing a seat, so it is imperative to make sure that everyone takes the time to accurately respond to the census. If you are one of the 50% of households who have not completed it, please make it a priority to do so today.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

All of these things are affected by funding. An accurate census count is the only way we receive this money.



HEALTH CARE



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ROADS & BRIDGES



AND MORE

News & Notes:

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP):

The \$2.2 trillion COVID-19 Coronavirus stimulus bill included \$349 billion for a new small business loan program known as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

The program is eligible for small businesses with 500 or fewer employees and can provide loans that can be up to 2.5 times the borrower's average monthly payroll costs. Borrowed money used for expenses related to payroll, mortgage interest, rent or utilities in the eight weeks following loan origination can be forgiven. The primary purpose for the program is to assist small businesses in keep their employees on the payroll.

The PPP's first round of loans started on April 3rd, but the \$349 billion quickly ran out within the first 10 days. Last week Congress approved an additional \$310 billion in new funds meant to hopefully help additional small businesses survive during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Alabama State Licensing Board for General Contractors April 30, 2020 License Renewal Deadline is Automatically Extended as Follows:

Pursuant to Board action summarized below, effective April 15, 2020, an automatic license renewal deadline extension up to and including July 31, 2020 is granted to licensees holding a current unexpired Alabama license that expires on April 30, 2020.

Failure of those whose licensing renewal deadline of April 30, 2020 has been automatically extended, to file the required licensing renewal documentation by July 31, 2020, will result in their license lapsing on August 1, 2020.

Any future notices relating to the above referenced Emergency Rule 230-X-1-.34.01ER will appear on the Alabama Licensing Board for General Contractors website (www.genconbd.alabama.gov). For further information please contact the Board's office at (334) 272-5030.

Ferguson Waterworks Opens New Alabama Branch:

AUCA member Ferguson Waterworks has opened a new branch location in Madison to serve their customers in the northern half of the state. The branch is located on 29639 Old Highway 20 Madison, AL 35756. They will be open Monday - Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



News & Notes:

April Brings Special Awareness to Safety:

While we should always remain safety conscious, the month of April highlights two specific safety awareness causes that are extremely critical for our industry. They are the National Work Zone Awareness Week, and National Safe Digging Month.

National Work Zone Awareness Week

April 20th, marked the beginning of National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW). Each year, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and its partners sponsor NWZAW to bring attention to motorist and worker safety around work zones. This year's theme was Safe Work Zones for All: Protect workers. Protect road users.



News & Notes:

National Safe Digging Month

While we are all social distancing, Alabama811 thought what better way to get the message across than to deliver it ourselves? They have introduced a weekly information sessions in the format of Q&A for anyone who needs a question answered, or just needs some more info.



ONLINE Q&A SESSIONS

WITH THE DAMAGE PREVENTION
TEAM OF ALABAMA 811

EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY (7-9 AM)

LINK:

[HTTPS://GLOBAL.GOTOMEETING.COM/JOIN/239367837](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/239367837)

BY PHONE: +1 (646) 749-3112

ACCESS CODE: 239-367-837

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE IT ALREADY, PLEASE
DOWNLOAD THE GOTO MEETING APP FOR
FREE TO JOIN

McKay Lyvers
Damage Prevention Education Manager
Alabama 811
205.567.5737
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COVID-19 Guidance for the Construction Workforce

OSHA is committed to protecting the health and safety of America's workers and workplaces during these unprecedented times. The agency will be issuing a series of industry-specific alerts designed to keep workers safe.

When working in the construction industry, the following tips can help reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus:

- Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick.
- Allow workers to wear masks over their nose and mouth to prevent them from spreading the virus.
- Continue to use other normal control measures, including personal protective equipment (PPE), necessary to protect workers from other job hazards associated with construction activities.
- Advise workers to avoid physical contact with others and direct employees/contractors/visitors to increase personal space to at least six feet, where possible. Where work trailers are used, all workers should maintain social distancing while inside the trailers.
- Train workers how to properly put on, use/wear, and take off protective clothing and equipment.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Promote personal hygiene. If workers do not have immediate access to soap and water for handwashing, provide alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency-approved cleaning chemicals from [List N](#) or that have label claims against the coronavirus.
- To the extent tools or equipment must be shared, provide and instruct workers to use alcohol-based wipes to clean tools before and after use. When cleaning tools and equipment, workers should consult manufacturer recommendations for proper cleaning techniques and restrictions.
- Keep in-person meetings (including toolbox talks and safety meetings) as short as possible, limit the number of workers in attendance, and use social distancing practices.
- Clean and disinfect portable jobsite toilets regularly. Hand sanitizer dispensers should be filled regularly. Frequently-touched items (i.e., door pulls and toilet seats) should be disinfected.
- Encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns.

For more information, visit www.osha.gov/coronavirus or call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

OSHA issues alerts to draw attention to worker safety and health issues and solutions.

Health & Safety:

Provided by J. Smith Lanier & Co., a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC company



Face Masks Utilization and Limitations

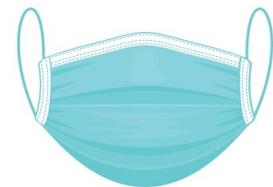
Many of us either want to or may be required to wear a face mask. As with any form of recognized personal protective equipment, nothing provides "absolute" protection. However, you might be able to improve the potential effectiveness of a face mask by proper use, removal and disposal.

What is a face mask?

A face mask is one tool that can be utilized for preventing the spread of communicable disease. They are also often referred to as dental, isolation, medical, procedure, or surgical masks. Face masks are typically loose-fitting masks that cover the nose and mouth, and have ear loops or ties or bands at the back of the head. There are a number of brands and can be found in a variety of colors.

What is a face mask used for?

Facemasks can help limit the spread of germs. When someone talks, coughs, or sneezes they may release tiny droplets into the air that can infect others. If someone is ill, a face mask can reduce the number of germs that the wearer releases and can protect other people from becoming sick.



A face mask is one tool that can be utilized for preventing the spread of communicable disease.

How to put on a face mask

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for a minimum of twenty seconds or apply hand sanitizer before touching the mask.
2. Remove a mask from the box and make sure there are no obvious tears or holes in either side of the mask.
3. Determine which side of the mask is the top. Your mask may have a stiff bendable edge at the top which is meant to mold to the shape of your nose.
4. Determine which side of the mask is the front. The colored side of the mask is usually the front and should face away from you, while the white side touches your face.
5. Follow the instructions below for the type of mask you are using.
 - Face Mask With Ear Loops: Hold the mask by the ear loops. Place a loop around each ear.
 - Face Mask With Ties: Bring the mask to your nose level and place the ties over the crown of your head and secure with a bow.
 - Face Mask with Bands: Hold the mask in your hand with the nosepiece or top of the mask at fingertips, allowing the headbands to hang freely below hands. Bring the mask to your nose level and pull the top strap over your head so that it rests over the crown of your head. Pull the bottom strap over your head so that it rests at the nape of your neck. Mold or pinch the stiff edge to the shape of your nose.
6. Pull the bottom of the mask over your mouth and chin. Avoid touching the mask while using it; if you do, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.

Face mask limitations

- To achieve high filtering efficiency, a mask must fit well.
- Anyone with facial hair (beard, goatee or bushy mustache) should consider shaving so you get the best possible mask-to-face seal.
- Replace a damp/wet face mask with a new one as soon as it becomes moist.
- Do not temporarily remove the mask from your mouth/nose and hang it from your neck or place it on your forehead.
- Do not re-use single-use masks.
- Masks are effective only when used in combination with frequent hand-cleaning with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.

How to remove a face mask

1. Clean your hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds or apply hand sanitizer before touching the mask.
2. Avoid touching the front of the mask. The front of the mask is contaminated.
3. Only touch the ear loops/ties/band.
4. Follow the instructions below for the type of mask you are using.
 - Face Mask with Ear loops: Hold both of the ear loops and gently lift and remove the mask.
 - Face Mask with Ties: Untie the bottom bow first, then untie the top bow and pull the mask away from you as the ties are loosened.
 - Face Mask with Bands: Lift the bottom strap over your head first, then pull the top strap over your head.
5. Properly discard the mask. Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.

Sources: World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and San Francisco Department of Health

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FOCUSED TRADE ASSOCIATION CREATED
SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE
UTILITY INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF
ALABAMA.***

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