**Presidents letter**

Brothers and Sisters of 1440, I hope you all had a great Mother's Day even with the circumstances we are dealing with in the world today.

There has been a lot of talk recently about the face coverings while training, especially while training on equipment such as tractor and manlifts and how they can compromise safety. We are currently in talks with the safety department on how we can resolve this problem but still keep everyone safe and follow the County's orders of social distance and face coverings.

The International has been continuously sending information about the Covid-19 and how it has been affecting USW and its membership. As the communications come, we have been posting them on the Locals Facebook page and the unions web page. As updates are released from the State of California and C.C. County, we have been doing our best to keep up with the changes and how it will affect us at UPI along with Bishop Wisecarver and RTW.

Lastly, I hope everyone has a nice safe Memorial Day. Please continue to work safely.

Any questions or concerns please feel free to send me an email.

Local union webpage: https://uswlocals.org/local-1440

Local union Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/USW1440

In Solidarity- Ben Salazar

**Ideas For the holiday while in quarantine:**

1. **Have a mini cookout at home.**
2. **Honor those who served and are no longer with us.**
3. **Make your home a vacation destination**
4. **Get outdoors.**
5. **Set up a video party**
6. **Watch the National Memorial Day Concert on Sunday at 8 p.m.**
7. **Go camping.**
8. **Create your own drive-in theater.**
9. **Gather the family around a campfire.**
10. **Create your own parade**



Union Meetings Are Held the 2nd Thursday Of Every Month. Our Next Meeting Will Be

**June 11th unless postponed**

5:30PM At the Union Hall

677 Cumberland Street

Pittsburg, CA 94565

Phone: 925-432-7396

**Retirements:**

**Kent “Otis”, Dupire**

**Opt. tech 1 ETL**

**4-20-87 thru 5-15-20**

**33Years**

**We Want to Wish our Union Brother A prosper and Healthy Retirement**

If You have not already! And Would like to be up to date on an ever-changing data of information on local union items

Our Local email Blast can be signed up for by

* Go to: **uswlocals.org/local-1440**
* Click on the link “stay updated”
* Fill out the form and Submit.



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# Information on emergency legislative responses to the Covid-19 pandemic

**So far, four bills have passed through the House and Senate and are now signed into law.**

1. [**Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (CARES 3.5)**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/266)

On April 24, the 4th the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act is dramatically shorter bill (HR 266).

The two sections of the bill are focused on the following:

**Increases authority for commitments and appropriations for Paycheck Protection Program**  
The legislation increases the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) by $321 billion.

* $60 billion is reserved for smaller lending institutions
* $50 billion for the Disaster Loans Program Account
* an additional $10 billion for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.

**The health provisions in the bill provide $100 billion in new health care funding, in addition to new requirements for a national testing strategy.**

* $75 billion is provided for the purpose of reimbursing hospitals and health care providers for additional expenses related to COVID-19 care, treatment and prevention, as well as foregone revenue due to the pandemic.
* $25 billion is provided for COVID-19 testing
* $11 billion for states, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes for necessary expenses to develop, purchase, administer, process, and analyze COVID–19 tests.
* more than $8 billion remains undesignated, and HHS has discretion to spend it on various Covid-19 testing needs.
* the roughly $6 billion remaining is then broken into seven pots of funding focused on National Institutes for Health, Centers for Disease Control, Federal Drug Administration, Health Resources Services Administration, rural health clinics, and Research & Development.

The bill requires a number of testing and data collection requirements. First being a national strategic testing plan that details how the Administration will increase domestic testing capacity, address disparities, and provide assistance and resources to states, localities, territories, and tribes.

There are also requirements to do regular reporting of demographic data. [Finally the bill requires states, localities, territories, and tribes to submit to the Secretary information on tests needed, laboratory and testing capacity, and how it will use provided resources.](https://www.manatt.com/insights/newsletters/covid-19-update/congress-passes-cares-act-3-5-to-replenish-certain)

### [**Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text)

The bill has more than ten times the amount spent on the first two coronavirus bills combined. It's more than double the cost of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which was the most significant stimulus bill enacted following the 2008 financial crisis.

**Here are a few key provisions:**

* Additional Income Assistance – A $1,200 one-time payment per adult and $500 per child.
* Improvements to Unemployment Insurance (UI)- $600 per week in addition to state UI benefits for four months, 13 additional weeks of unemployment benefits, funding to waive waiting weeks. The bill also allows for $360 million for worker training and support and implementation costs at the Department of Labor
* Other Consumer Financial Protections -Suspends adverse consumer credit reporting until 120 days after pandemic in the case of forbearance of payment modification. Student loan interest accrual and payments are also suspended for six months.

**What's Missing:**

* No OSHA emergency standard to better protect frontline workers.
* No fix for paid leave exemptions for employers who have more than 500 employees
* Nothing to protect at risk pensions or help laid-off workers with COBRA premiums.

### [**Families First Coronavirus Response Act**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6201?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22emergency+spending+bill+coronavirus%22%5D%7D&r=2&s=2)

This is a critical first step in making sure working people facing serious health and financial risks receive the assistance we need.

* Provides for Free COVID-19 Testing
* Implements Emergency Paid Sick Leave – Employers having less than 500 employees are now required to provide up to 80 hours of paid sick leave at the employee’s regular pay for quarantine, treatment or care of a family member related to the coronavirus.
* Provides for Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion – This legislation ensures 12 weeks of protected job leave for workers.
* Provides Additional Resources for Unemployment Insurance – An additional $1 billion in 2020 for emergency administration grants will be available to states for activities related to processing and paying unemployment insurance benefits.

### [**Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6074?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22emergency+spending+bill+coronavirus%22%5D%7D&s=2&r=1)

This is an emergency spending bill that was signed into law March 6.

It allocates $8.3 billion for help to fund vaccine development, treatment, and public health efforts.

### **What we still need: H.R. 6559, the COVID-19 Every Worker Protection Act of 2020**

**H.R. 6390/S. 3568**, **The Medical Supply Chain Emergency Act of 2020**

**Covid-19 Life**

**Working Safely with Distractions All Around us**

 Every day we encounter distractions in all that we do. The driver weaving in and out of traffic, the child crying as we try to sleep for the graveyard shift, the current events, the rude person at the store as where are getting groceries, feeling rushed to complete a task at work are just a few we might encounter. Whatever the distraction is we still need to work safely for our families, they are depending on us.

First let’s look at what distraction means; “Distraction: 1. A thing that prevents someone from giving full attention to something else, 2. A diversion or recreation or 3. Extreme agitation of the mind or emotions”.

With the definition of distraction in mind, you can see how easy it is to lose focus or to get distracted, especially with the current events happening around us. When we lose focus, we are more likely to have an accident. So, what does this mean?  Let’s look at two common jobs we all do, operating a crane and operating mobile equipment (forklifts, scooters, ram tractors, trucks or cars).

**Cranes:** Plan your lift with all involved, use the proper rigging, the crane operator is to were the orange vest, determine who is responsible for ALL hand signals (emergency stop can be done by anyone). Once you start make your lift, travel with your load high enough to clear obstacles, honk as you approach all doorways (pedestrian or vehicle), be aware of traffic around you, be visible to others, follow the load and always beware of your surroundings.

**Scooters:** Stop at all stop signs, do not speed, sound your horn when going through doors, stop and sound horn before going through roll up doors and make sure the door is all the way open before proceeding, sound your horn approaching people, do not pass ram tractors, forklifts or cranes until you are signaled to do so by the operator and then sound your horn as you pass ram tractors and forklifts.

**Forklifts:** Stop at all stop signs, do not speed, sound your horn when going through doors, stop and sound horn before going through roll up doors and make sure the door is all the way open before proceeding, sound your horn approaching people and make sure your load is secure and the forklift is the correct size for the load you are carrying.

**Ram tractors:** Stop at all stop signs, sound your horn when going through doors, sound your horn approaching people and make sure your load is secure and the ram tractor is the correct size for the coil you are carrying. Look before backing up and be aware of others in or passing through your work area.

With ALL mobile equipment, make sure you do an inspection each day and document it in the system. If there are any issues with the equipment, please document it in the comments section, no matter how insignificant it is. When we do this, an email is sent to the appropriate shop and this helps identify any problems that can be addressed sooner rather than later. If **any** mobile equipment is involvedin an incident or the equipment has an issue after your initial inspection that makes it unsafe to operate, **fail** the equipment and **tag it out**. If any equipment has a tag on it, we **cannot remove** it and do a new inspection. The appropriate shop must inspect it and then release it.

**In all that we do, STOP and ACT, take 3 seconds, whatever it is that you need to do to stay safe so WE all can go home to our families. Summer is coming as is the heat; remember to hydrate before, during and after your activities to stay healthy.**

**In Solidity, Your Wage Safety Reps.**

unity****strength****respect****united****steelworkers