



Western Building Material Association

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WBMA Washington Members:

Governor Inslee March 26th Press Conference

After watching Governor Inslee's press conference this morning, and checking with other sources in the industry, sadly there has been no change to yesterday's announcement from the Governor's office outlining with few exceptions, construction is not considered an essential business activity in the Stay Home, Stay Healthy Proclamation.

When questioned during his press conference, Governor Inslee stressed his belief the number one thing for economic recovery is beating the Coronavirus. He characterized his directive as a "pause" in construction activity and was convinced it was the right decision.

He advised the person asking the question to read the order, but also noted the exceptions where construction was allowed including:

- Construction of essential businesses
(he mentioned building a grocery store as an example)
- Construction for public purposes
- Construction to preserve existing assets (he did not provide examples)

Although many jobsites have been shut down per yesterday's announcement, LBM dealers are still considered essential and able to remain open, provided safe distancing guidelines are followed.

I received calls, texts and emails from many WBMA members today. Several are considering layoffs and/or furloughs due to the slowdown associated with the "pause" in construction activity. Some are considering a closure during the two-week Stay Home, Stay Healthy timeline.

I am interested in hearing from our members what they are anticipating, and actions they are taking. Please email casey@wbma.org if you would like to share ideas or have any questions.

The WBMA Office is not classified as an essential business, however we are working remotely and available to return messages and phone calls. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 as it relates to the LBM industry and provide updates as they develop.

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