UCON SAFETY DIRECTORS
BEST PRACTICES, STRATEGIES

(Important Note: The information contained in this summary is not meant to serve as legal or regulatory advice, Cal-OSHA compliant or related. Use of the suggested procedures or vendors should be subject to careful review and implementation.)

On March 25, UCON’s Safety and Insurance Committee hosted a conference call to learn and share best practices and innovative ideas – over and above CDC guidelines -- for handling the operational safety challenges associated with COVID-19.

Below is a summary of industry ideas meant to help others to quickly improve their safety operational effectiveness. Each area detailed below contains actions or recommendations that are currently being implemented by UCON member companies at this challenging time.

**Member-Enacted Innovative Jobsite Handwashing:**

1. **Converted potable drinking water** set up on all crew trucks to handwash stations (see photo 1 on Attachment A). The sign on the wash station photo should be modified, replacing "non-potable water" with "not for drinking, hand washing only."
2. **Add a pump to the normal potable drinking water** set up to convert it.
   (See photo 2 on Attachment A for innovative set up).
3. **Use Chlorhexidine** in place of alcohol or sanitizer. It is readily available. Use proper mix ratios to ensure strength and effectiveness. (Check to assure it is compliant).
4. **Respirator wipes** are available and members noted using these as an alternative to other wipes, whilst there is a shortage of sanitizer and other wipes.

**Member-Enacted General Practices:**

1. **Use sanitized wipes to wipe down tools** on exchange from one worker to another, and all equipment at shift start, or change of operator.
2. **100% gloves on all job sites.** Include instruction on glove removal as this is an often ignored exposure.
3. **Add portable toilets per crew** to assist in segregation of teams to prevent group exposures.
4. **Eliminate signing of safety or health documents.** Member is using iPads with stylus only followed by wipe down. UCON has been asked to request Cal-OSHA allow modification of employee documentation requirements, to allow one employee to take roll call and verify all in attendance.
5. **Single hotel rooms** in all situations.
6. **Staggered shift work to enhance social distance** person to person and crew to crew.

7. **Established job site team approach** with dedicated roles for PM / Safety Manager / Superintendent. Three-person alignment is better than one designated person to carry the load.

8. **Look for Alternative Virus-Killing Household Products – Available in bulk.** Household cleaners may contain CDC-approved virus-killing agents. Members have noted that these products can be purchased in bulk and repackaged using individual spray bottles. Ensure all containers and spray bottles are thoroughly labelled and include basic training on use. Members have reported these cleaning agents available at Costco or similar.

**Member Enacted Communications & Tech:**

1. **Utilize UCONs Critical Safety Tailgate Topics daily,** available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
2. **Add a full-time safety monitor** totally dedicated to process, people care and advising. Can be identified by colored hard hat for visibility.
3. **Safety videos using iPhone** – Members have used the iPhone to produce and provide short safety videos, to share in the morning huddle – Seeing is better than hearing.
4. **Use a texting platform for prompt employee safety messages** ([Textedly](#) or other vendor). Key issues would include company-wide safety messages, job status, notifications, exposures or related. Faster and often more effective than using emails.
5. **Use Zoom conference** technology for training and update purposes.

**POSITIVE TEST RESULTS: A MEMBER CASE SUMMARY**

Member provided the following story of an employee who tested positive for COVID-19:
(Note: The employee’s exposure was not jobsite related)

“Based on the positive test, we implemented the CDC guidelines and mandated a 14-day quarantine. But what was most important is that we applied “**extreme support**”. This was defined as finding something they could do for that time period keeping the employee working at something; communicating with the employee every day; communicating effectively with care to other employees; contacting everyone as best we could, personally.”
Attachment A

Photo 1

Photo 2