



SPRINKLER FITTERS LOCAL 417 MPLS ST. PAUL

HEADLINES

March 2020

Dear Member:

The Covid-19 pandemic is affecting all of us across the country and the world. As you all can understand this issue is very fluid. Things are changing daily, if not hourly.

In the office, we will continue to work to provide up-to-date information as we receive it. I have been very busy regarding the continuous flow of changing information and circumstances. I am in constant communication with the United Association, leadership at the State Building Trades and our local Building Trades managers. In an effort to comply with current recommendations and keeping with social distancing practices, we ask that you call the office or email first before visiting. I will discuss with the Executive Board the possible postponement of the April union meeting.

You can mail any payments due to 529 County Road E West, Shoreview, MN 55126 or pay online at www.local417.com.

At this time, the training department will be suspending classes for the apprentice program on a week to week basis unless notified by Brad. They are looking in to the possibility of continuing instruction via online classes/Blackboard platform. Brad will be updating the training aspect as things progress.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE:

In light of the recent COVID-19 virus and based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on gatherings of people, the Minnesota State Fire Marshal is waiving the requirement for continuing education for journeyman sprinkler fitters and managing employees for this fiscal year (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020).

Certificate renewals for journeyman sprinkler fitters and managing employees will be mailed out in mid-April. Renewal applications will not be rejected if they fail to have the 10 hours of continuing education. This requirement is being waived due to the extraordinary circumstances we are experiencing and is consistent with our past practice of waiving this requirement for fire protection professionals who are deployed to military service.

If you have completed your continuing education for this year, thank-you for doing that. If not, please know that there will be no penalty if you are unable to complete your 10 hours of continuing education for the upcoming renewal period.

Many of you will have questions regarding Covid-19 and Health Partners so we put together a list of FAQs and resources.

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19

Q: How is COVID-19 testing being covered?

A: These services are currently covered under your medical plan benefits

Q: How is COVID-19 treatment being covered?

A: There are currently no approved treatments specifically for COVID-19. Any care recommended by a provider will be covered under the plan benefits. Primary Care Office visits and lab tests associated with COVID-19 will be covered at 100%.

We're closely monitoring the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Minnesota's Department of Health's (MDH) recommended guidance. As the situation evolves, we are continuously evaluating coverage needs.

Q: What should members do if they think they have COVID-19?

A: We recommend members call their primary care clinic.

CareLine is also available 24/7, 365 days a year, at no cost to members. Call 612-339-3663 or 800-551-0859.

Virtuwell.com and DoctoronDemand.com each have on-line assessment that you can access at no charge.

Q: Where can members get the most up-to-date information?

A: The most updated information for HealthPartners members and patients is available at healthpartners.com/coronavirus.

We also recommend the MN AFL-CIO page for additional resources.
<https://www.mnaflcio.org/updates/coronavirus-covid-19-information>

Please utilize common sense to keep you and your family safe and healthy, whether on jobsites or in your personal life. If there is anything that we can help assist in at the local union office, please feel free to call.

Fraternally,

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