



MEMO

RE: EXECUTIVE ORDER ‘PROTECTING WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY’

On Thursday, the White House released additional information on the executive orders signed by newly elected President Biden. The Maine Aggregate Association has been closely monitoring this Executive Order that states that “ensuring the health and safety of workers is a national priority and a moral imperative.” The executive order appears to focus solely on COVID-19 saying “the Federal Government must take swift action to reduce the risk that workers may contract COVID-19 in the workplace. The Executive Order outlines a few points that Maine Aggregate Association is closely monitoring. These points and actions direct the Secretary of Labor to:

- 1) Issue, within 2 weeks of the date of this order and in conjunction or consultation, a revised guidance to employers.
- 2) Launch a national program to focus OSHA enforcement efforts related to COVID-19 on violations that put the largest number of workers at serious risk or are contrary to anti-retaliation principles.
- 3) Coordinate all regional OSHA offices to conduct a multilingual outreach campaign to inform workers and their representatives of their rights under applicable law. This campaign would include labor unions, community organizations, and place a special emphasis on communities hit hardest by the pandemic.
- 4) Coordinate with states that have occupational safety and health plans approved under section 18 to ensure workers are covered and protected from COVID-19.

Lastly, the Executive Order directs the Secretary of Labor, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, to consider whether any emergency temporary standards on COVID-19 applicable to coal and metal or non-metal mines are necessary, and if such standards are determined to be necessary and consistent with applicable law, issue them as soon as practicable.

The leadership of Maine Aggregate Association has already been in contact with MSHA to discuss this Executive Order. Currently, we do not believe this has an impact on our membership; however, we continue to stay actively engaged and in close communication with MSHA. In the meantime, be sure to be practicing social distancing and following CDC guidelines.

Best regards,

Gene Fadrigon, President

LINKS:

WHITE HOUSE EXECUTIVE ORDER

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-protecting-worker-health-and-safety/>

PRINT COVID SIGNS:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html>

MSHA COVID:

<https://www.msha.gov/msha-response-covid-19>