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ENSURING ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS' ABILITY TO WORK DURING THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

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As the Nation continues to respond to COVID-19, it is important that considerations regarding essential critical infrastructure workers continue to inform response policies and activities. The ability of these workers to perform their jobs safely is critical to our Nation's ability to maintain resilience of National Critical Functions. It is for this reason that the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), in collaboration with other federal agencies, State and local governments, and the private sector, has issued the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidance for COVID-19 response. The current version of this guidance, Version 4.0, was released in August 2020. This guidance is intended to help State, local, tribal, and territorial officials and organizations protect their workers and communities and ensure the continued safe and secure operation of critical infrastructure, by identifying the universe of essential workers that may require specialized risk management strategies so that they can work safely. It can also be used to begin planning and preparing for the allocation of scarce resources used to protect essential workers against COVID-19.

We are now entering a new phase of our pandemic response, when vaccines are available but in short supply and when infection rates are driving the continued application of public health measures in communities. For this reason, we want to re-promote the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidance Version 4.0. Although this version of the guidance is unchanged from the August 2020 release, we want to reiterate our belief that it remains an important tool for COVID-19 planning, even in this new environment.

The advisory list identifies workers who conduct a range of operations and services that are typically essential to continued critical infrastructure viability, including staffing operations centers, maintaining and repairing critical infrastructure, operating call centers, working construction, and performing operational functions, among others. It also includes workers who support crucial supply chains and enable functions for critical infrastructure. This includes critical workers who will be involved in the research, development, manufacturing, distribution, and administration of COVID-19 vaccines. The industries that essential workers support represent, but are not limited to, medical and healthcare, telecommunications, information technology systems, defense, food and agriculture, transportation and logistics, energy, water and wastewater, and law enforcement.

This is the fourth version of the list, as it has evolved over time based on lessons learned from the pandemic and as additional essential workers returned to work. The earlier versions of the list were meant to assist officials and organizations identify essential work functions and to allow essential workers access to their workplaces during times of community restrictions. Now, many months into the pandemic, most essential workers have the necessary access and freedom of movement to perform their critical work functions. However, given the recent surge of increased nationwide infection and subsequent community restrictions, this list can continue to be used for the purpose of worker access.

The list is also useful as a tool to help appropriate officials identify essential critical infrastructure workers that may need specialized risk management strategies to ensure that they can work safely and to begin planning and preparing for the allocation of scarce resources used to protect essential workers against COVID-19.

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To that end, this guidance may be used to support prioritization decisions related to COVID-19 vaccines, especially in the early stages when the vaccines are in short supply. This guidance is referenced in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations as one framework against which jurisdictions could evaluate essential worker populations for the purposes of vaccine allocation. The CDC Playbook details certain essential critical infrastructure workers and vulnerable populations that will be prioritized for vaccines in the early phases of distribution as well as the plan for the eventual vaccination of the entire population.

State, local, tribal, and territorial governments are responsible for implementing and executing response activities in their communities, while the Federal Government is in a supporting role. Officials should use their own judgment in making decisions regarding resource allocation and other public health measures. Similarly, while adhering to relevant public health guidance, critical infrastructure owners and operators are expected to use their own judgement on issues of the prioritization of business processes and workforce allocation to best ensure worker safety and the continuity of the essential goods and services they support. All decisions should appropriately balance public safety, the health and safety of the workforce, and the continued delivery of essential critical infrastructure services and functions.

CISA will continue to work with our partners in the critical infrastructure community to update this advisory list, if necessary, as the Nation's response to COVID-19 evolves. Should you have questions about this list, please contact **CISA** at **CENTRAL@CISA.GOV**.

Should you have questions regarding COVID-19 vaccine planning in your state, please reach out to your state COVID-19 Vaccine Planning and Coordination Team.

Below is a link to additional vaccine distribution information: *From the Factory to the Frontlines - The Operation Warp Speed Strategy for Distributing a COVID-19 Vaccine*

Attachment: "Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response Version 4.0"

Click Here to Review

Christmas Holiday Recipe!

Apple Pie Cheesecake

Ingredients
for 8 servings
CHEESECAKE
- 2 pie crusts
- 24 oz cream cheese
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup sour cream
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamo
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 3 eggs

APPLE PIE FILLING
- 3 medium apples, peeled, cored and cubed
- 1 cup water
- ⅓ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch

Preparation
1. Preheat oven to 300°F (150°C).
2. Line a springform pan with a pie crust, pressing it around the sides of the pan until smooth.
3. In a medium bowl, beat the cream cheese, sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, and nutmeg until smooth.
4. Add the sour cream and mix together. Add in one egg at a time, whisking until smooth.
5. Pour mixture into the springform pan and bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes.
6. After baking, turn off the oven and let the cheesecake cool inside for 1 hour without opening the oven door.
7. Turn up the oven temperature to 425°F (220°C).
8. In a saucepan, add the apples, sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, cornstarch, and water over medium-low heat. Stir occasionally until apples are soft (about 10 minutes), then remove from heat. Let cool.
9. Once cool, spread apple pie filling over cheesecake.
10. Cut the other pie crust in to ¼-inch (6 mm) strips and make a lattice pattern across the top.
11. Brush with egg wash.
12. Bake for 25 minutes, until golden brown.
13. Chill until set then serve.
14. Enjoy!

IMEA Congratulates Sam Lamar Retiring from Henderson Municipal Power & Light

Sam LaMar is currently the Transmission & Distribution Manager for Henderson Municipal Power & Light (HMP&L). Sam joined the utility in September of 1989 as a Journey Lineman. Throughout his more than 31 years of service, Sam has been integral in developing Henderson Municipal Power and Light's safety culture, culminating in earning HMP&L's RP3 recognition last year. Sam's career with the utility has concentrated on electrical distribution and transmission services as well as substation technology. He has progressed from Journey Lineman to Substation Technician to Line Supervisor, and ultimately to Transmission & Distribution Manager. To this day, you can find Sam on site during an outage or leading a crew to provide mutual aid. His loyalty, knowledge, and experience will be sorely missed when he retires from HMP&L at the end of this year.

IMEA would like to recognize Sam as an outstanding leader and team member of his Community & Utility. It's been a privilege serving you as an IMEA member, and now it's an honor helping you celebrate your retirement. Congratulations to you.

Sam Lamar; HMP&L Transmission & Distribution Manager

Henderson Municipal Power & Light : Large Utility Safety Award of Excellence

General Manager, Chris Heimgartner, Assistant General Manager, Steve Smith and Transmission and Distribution Manager, Sam Lamar, along with staff of Henderson Municipal Power & Light, were presented with the Safety of Excellence Award, recognizing them for their best safety practices and overall safety culture. Steve Smith and Sam Lamar make every effort to mentor and guide the staff to work safely daily and provide detailed safety tailgate discussions to crews working under their direction.

Chris Heimgartner; HMP&L General Manager, Steve Smith; HMP&L Assistant General Manager and Duane Richardson; IMEA Executive Director

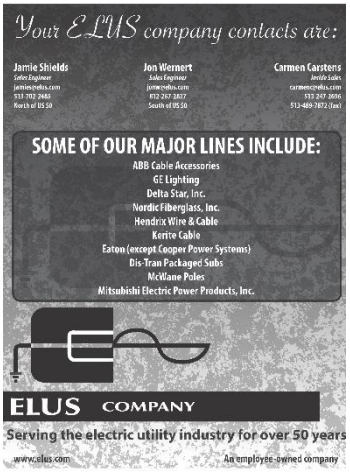
EVENT CALENDAR

March 8-12, 2021
IMEA 613 Advanced Construction and Maintenance Workshop
Class # 031918
Mid-America Science Park (Scottsburg, IN.
Register Today! www.imea.com / workshops

March 22-26, 2021
IMEA 611 Basic Construction and Maintenance Workshop
Class # 032320
Mid-America Science Park (Scottsburg, IN.)
Register Today! www.imea.com / workshops

April 5-9, 2021
IMEA 612 Intermediate Construction and Maintenance Workshop
Class # 031819
Mid-America Science Park (Scottsburg, IN.)
Register Today! www.imea.com / workshops

Thank you to our Featured Associate Member for November!
ELUS Company



Jobs in Public Power

Public power is more to communities than just an essential utility. It is a source of unique and fulfilling career opportunities in your local community. Employees make a difference by serving their own neighborhoods and families. Talented high school, college and technical college graduates—and even technology, environmental and public service professionals—will find that competitive salaries aren't the only thing attractive about careers in public power.

To post a classified ad to our Jobs in Public Power page, please email text to janel@imea.com.

Do you have important news or photos that you would like to share in our bi-weekly newsletters? Please email all news and photos to janel@imea.com

INDIANA MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
176 W. LOGAN ST. #225
NOBLESVILLE, IN. 46060
765.366.5506 | imeainfo@imea.com