



MARCH 26, 2020: OFFICIAL RIDGEFIELD ORDER IMPLEMENTING WASHINGTON GOVERNOR INSLEE STATEWIDE PROCLAMATION NO. 20-25

I. Background

On March 23, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation No. 20-25 that ordered that from midnight March 25, 2020 to midnight April 6, 2020, all non-essential businesses would be prohibited from conducting all but basic minimum operations and all essential businesses were allowed to continue operations so long as appropriate social distancing, sanitation, and worker safety measures were implemented. In its listing of essential businesses, the Order includes language related to construction workers as essential workers in the following circumstance:

“Construction workers who support the construction, operation, inspections, and maintenance of construction sites and construction projects (including housing construction) for all essential facilities, services and projects included in this document, and for residential construction related to emergency repairs and projects that ensure structural integrity.”

Late yesterday, March 25, 2020, the Governor issued a memorandum clarifying that, in general, commercial and residential construction is not authorized under the Proclamation because construction is not an essential activity, except for construction related to essential activities described in the order, to further a public purpose, or to address damage, unsafe conditions, or emergency repairs.

II. Ridgefield Interpretation and Action

Taking the plain language of the order as written, it appears clear that only those construction sites and projects “for all essential facilities, services, and projects **included in this document**” are to be considered essential for purposes of exemption from the stay at home order. The document very carefully prescribes thirteen specific industry sectors where such construction would be considered essential.

Therefore, effective immediately, construction in Ridgefield will temporarily be limited as follows:

- 1) For ***residential development and building projects***, all work including sites, permit submittals/drop-offs/pickups, and inspections **MUST STOP, EXCEPT** project or site work necessary to prevent spoliation and avoid damage, which includes activities necessary to temporarily close down and secure a site for protection of the structure and the public safety. **ALL SITES MUST BE SECURED AND CLOSED BY END OF DAY SUNDAY, MARCH 29, AND REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL THE RESTRICTIONS IN THE GOVERNOR'S ORDER HAVE BEEN LIFTED.**
- 2) For ***residential remodel construction on premises which have already been granted an occupancy permit***, all work including sites, permit submittals/drop-offs/pickups, and inspections **MUST STOP, EXCEPT** project or site work necessary for "emergency repairs and projects that ensure structural integrity".
- 3) For ***commercial/industrial development and building projects***, only those which directly involve any of the thirteen essential facilities, services, or projects listed in the governor's order **MAY CONTINUE** with site work, permit submittals/drop-offs/pickups, and inspections.
 - a. ALL OTHER commercial/industrial development and building project sites, submittals, and inspections **MUST STOP, EXCEPT** project or site work necessary to prevent spoliation and avoid damage, which includes activities necessary to temporarily close down and secure a site for protection of the structure and the public safety. **ALL OF THESE AFFECTED SITES MUST BE SECURED AND CLOSED BY END OF DAY SUNDAY, MARCH 29, AND REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL THE RESTRICTIONS IN THE GOVERNOR'S ORDER HAVE BEEN LIFTED.**

Finally, we understand that this is a hardship to your business and industry and join you in hoping that the restrictions being implemented around the State and Country are short-lived. We also hope you, your staff, and all your families stay safe and healthy during this unprecedented time. Our staff will continue processing permit applications which have already been submitted, even in those segments of the industry which are not able to continue sites and submittals, in order to hit the ground running when the Governor's restrictions are lifted. If the Governor's Order is extended beyond April 6, our staff will work with you to re-evaluate additional measures necessary to secure and prevent spoilage on your sites. In the meantime, we appreciate your compliance with this Order, and are here if you have additional questions for us.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Stuart", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Stuart
City Manager