



Constructive Conversations

By: Chris DeHerrera

ABC Members. Welcome to my Members Blog. There is nothing like a global pandemic to kick-start what should have been in place long ago. But like all of you, not enough time in a regular day to accomplish all that needs to be done. As our ABC staff work to be your go-to on COVID-19 resources, information, OSHA updates, etc., this is my opportunity to step out of the dark-ages, which I enjoy hanging on to, and enter the world of social media. The need...to support our industry and members through these trying times. That's what we are here for and hopefully my attempt to "blog" will keep you informed and compliant and maybe entertained once we get past the next several months.

First, I had to figure out what a blog was good for. According to the all-knowing and truthful internet, it is a platform in which to share my opinions, ideas, thoughts. As Scooby-Doo would say (and maybe my staff) ...ruh roh! Be careful what you wish for because Chris has no shortage of opinions. However, I will temper my passions to avoid becoming part of the fake news bandwagon. That bandwagon is way over-crowded.

This blog, which by the way stands for weblog, will be an attempt to shed light on industry and member's "status". For those of you that don't know what "status" means, I had to look it up, it means an update feature which allows users to discuss their thoughts, whereabouts, or important information with their friends. Like a tweet but not a tweet. Longer than a tweet, but shorter than a blog. There are Facebook status' but not be confused with a Youtube status. I know...it's complicated. Like many of you, I have become an expert at texting my thoughts with words like IDK, LOL, and my personal favorite LMAO! And let's not forget emojis! What would our world be without emojis? It frightens me a little to wonder what all language will "sound" like in the near future. A silent movie interjected with smiley faces and odd arrangements of the letters of the alphabet? Weird! Where is the sound people and most importantly the thought process and the art of communication in real words!! Ruh roh! Opinions unchecked!

On to business at hand! This is where a drumroll would come in (I need sound). We are announcing that beginning very soon, our Vice President, Scott McKinnon, also known as our Safety Guru, will be issuing information on a regular basis to help you and your employees navigate COVID-19. There are many questions on compliance, safety procedures, HR procedures, OSHA recordables (COVID-19), etc. Many of these questions don't have answers yet because so much information is coming to light every day. Scott's role will be to provide you with the latest up-to-date information in the area of COVID-19 safety and safety protocol to help you keep your employees safe, and just as importantly, run a safe jobsite in relation to COVID-19. Stay tuned next couple of days.

With Scott focusing on safety, my role is on the legislative front. As we work hard to ensure the safety of our workers, ABC is working with local and federal elected officials on the newest "coined" term (thanks to the pandemic) called "construction essential".

ABC Utah issued a letter to our local elected officials asking them to deeply consider construction as essential to the state if the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force should consider limiting activity within the state. See the full letter here. <https://files.constantcontact.com/1660b468601/f6a4436c-717c-4a7e-9452-158c4dbfd91c.pdf>

In addition, ABC signed on to an industry-wide letter thanking the Governor and elected officials for their work during this trying time. Utahns have come together to provide solutions and I am thankful everyday that I live in this great state with the leadership that can work as one, to provide solutions for all Utahns. Here is where applause would come in! This blog thing is missing audio! Even radio in the dark ages had sound.

Hang in there, ABC members! Focus on the data and the facts to make wise and applicable decisions concerning your business. We will provide you with tools. Look for our "status" update within the next couple of days for your portal to COVID-19 resources that will include the following. This repository of information will be accessible from our website at www.abcutah.org.

- COVID-19 Toolbox Talks

- OSHA Updates

- Worksite Safety Procedures for COVID-19

- CDC Information

- Free Webinars: HR, Legal, etc.:

 - COVID-19 and It's Impact on Jobsite Health and Safety

 - Construction Employer Responsibilities and OSHA compliance During the Coronavirus Emergency

 - Practical Issues for Employers in Navigating the New Federal Emergency Paid FMLA and Sick Leave Mandates

- And more!

Without overwhelming you all, and me, this is the end of my first blog. I feel the strong urge to leave you with an inspirational quote as a call-to-action or some inspiring theme like perseverer through these trying times. However, the only thing that comes to mind is "Zoinks", which is a Scooby-Doo interjection of surprise and shock! But as Shaggy would say, "C'mon Gang We've Got a Mystery to Solve!"

Be safe out there! (BSOT)...emoji coming soon!