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Why is Construction and Home Building an “Essential Infrastructure Business?”

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has designated construction of single-family and multifamily housing as an “Essential Infrastructure Business.”

Working on a new, unfinished home site occurs primarily outdoors and does not involve going onto a location occupied by residents or a public location, and there is minimal (if any) physical or transactional contact with customers compared to other customer/client relationships.

However HBA, NCHBA and NAHB are still stressing the importance for all on the jobsite to maintain proper compliance related to Coronavirus Guidelines by both the CDC and Construction Industry Safety Coalition (CISC).

A large majority, if not all land development and residential construction job tasks fall within the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) Lower Exposure Risk jobs.

As stay at home orders increase, it is essential that communities have access to those who build and maintain homes including contractors, plumbing, residential property management, rental housing operators, roofing, electrical, HVAC systems, waste/wastewater treatment plants and power generations.

- Home construction, including those industries listed above, should be designated as ‘essential’ because it is necessary to maintain, repair, sanitize, etc for both safety and economic security.

In addition, construction and housing are designated as ‘essential’ because they are vital to the economy.

“Construction of single-family and multifamily housing is essential to the economy... As housing goes, so goes the economy,” said NAHB Chairman Dean Mon.

- “Housing is currently 14.6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and therefore a major engine of the economy. If the construction industry and its supply chain are disrupted, it creates a domino effect leading to dire negative economic repercussions for an already-burdened economy.”