UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

Unprecedented, crazy, unbelievable, scary, biblical, or however you reference the current times that we are experiencing, it is simply beyond belief. On January 21, 2020, only about 12 weeks ago, the first Coronavirus case was documented in the United States. Little did we know that on January 21, 2020, our lives would likely change forever.

American citizens are experiencing anxiety in all aspects of their lives, some impacted more than others, obviously. Combining a nation-wide health crisis with a current and looming economic crisis is a double whammy that we have never experienced before, and it is foremost in our mind every day. Those of us with kids are trying to field questions that we can’t answer and trying our best to be comforting and optimistic. Kids are scared, parents are scared too, it’s just a mess!

I have thought a lot about MFPA’s role, and my role in particular, on how I can best serve our membership during these unprecedented times. I certainly wish I could look in to my crystal ball and throw out a date that all this will be over and our lives will return to normal, but I can’t do that. As Executive Director of MFPA, I am the leader of our Association and a leader of Missouri’s forest products industry. Those of you receiving this newsletter are respective leaders of your business, agency, or company and you all play a leadership role in Missouri’s forest products industry. Folks, today, maybe more than any other time in our history, LEADERS NEED TO LEAD, and do so with confidence.

I have had many, many conversations with members over the past couple months regarding topics that range from A-Z. The impact that the pandemic has had on our industry is wide ranging, some have had to shut down, others are continuing to work, not knowing when or if the next PO is coming. The future is totally unknown. In all of my conversations there has been one very consistent feeling that has been conveyed, the burden of responsibility is weighing heavily on all of us. Leaders take on responsibility, they take risks, its part of our DNA, and you understand the magnitude of your position. Your decisions have real consequences. It’s hard to wake up and be strong every day, but for the foreseeable future, you can’t take a day off.

It will be very interesting to see the governments reaction to this pandemic once it passes. We will undoubtedly see new laws and regulations passed that will further control our personal freedoms outside of our homes. Will “social distancing” become the norm, who knows? I have continued to be outraged at the partisan bickering that continues in D.C. even during a historic health crisis. Unfortunately, that is the world we live in.

I feel compelled to thank my MFPA members for being leaders during the most uncertain times in our history and providing a sense of security for all those that depend on you. Your leadership will ensure that better days will come, and I thank you for accepting that responsibility.

Brian Brookshire, Executive Director
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Mark your calendars for the 2020 MFPA Annual Summer Meeting!! At this point leaving our homes and work places to attend the MFPA Summer Meeting seems like a dream, but before we know it we will be reviewing committee meeting agendas, bidding on auction items to support the PAC and Log A Load for Kids, and making plans to participate and attend the Associate Member Exhibition! We will be heading to Springfield! Join us at Oasis Resort and Convention Center for industry business information, education, participation and great opportunities for networking and socializing. The Summer Meeting is dedicated to a balance of time conducting MFPA business, education seminars, socializing, eating good food, and having fun. Mark your calendars now!
SBA Paycheck Protection Program Forgiveness Checklist of Documentation Required

Information needed to present to the bank or SBA for loan forgiveness:

1. Copies of payroll tax reports filed with the IRS (including Forms 941, 940, state income and unemployment tax filing reports) for the eight week period following the origination of the loan.

2. Copies of payroll reports for each pay period for the eight week period following the origination of the loan. Gross wages including PTO (which might include vacation, sick, and other PTO) should be reflected.

3. Documentation reflecting the health insurance premiums paid by the company under a group health plan including owners of the company for the eight week period following the origination of the loan should be provided. Copies of the monthly invoices should suffice.

4. Documentation of all retirement plan funding by the employer for the eight weeks following the origination of the loan should be provided. Copies of work papers, schedules and remittances to the retirement plan administrator should be available.

5. Copies of all lease agreements for the real estate and tangible personal property should be presented along with proof of payment during the eight week period following the loan origination date.

6. Copies of all statements of interest paid on debt obligations incurred prior to February 15, 2020 indicating payments amounts and proof of payment for the eight week period following the loan origination date.

7. Copies of cancelled checks, statement or other evidence of utilities paid during the “covered period” for the eight week period following the loan origination date.
COVID-19 Prevention Tips
Help stop the spread of COVID-19

1. Clean your hands often.
2. Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
3. Keep 6 feet away from others when possible.
4. If you feel sick, stay home.
5. Listen for information from your local government.
6. Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe!

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Not only medically, but this Covid 19 pandemic has horrible ripple effects. Of course, it has changed the way we do business, the way we work, and the way we learn. Any of us with kids knows the kind of chaos that has been wreaked upon our educational system. While not looking for sympathy, the same can be said for MFPA programs. We can't hold PTH classes in our normal locations, or methods. We are making some plans to make some changes, or moving classes back on the calendar in the hopes of holding them once restrictions are lifted. The same for our Continuing Education programs. Nobody is waving a surrender flag...so keep your eyes out for great new opportunities with all our training. It's also having a dramatic impact on the MFPA Logging School. We are continuing our plans, set ups, and coordination for a fantastic opportunity for the next generation of loggers. Unless the government restrictions change plans, we are scheduled to begin June 15, just outside of Salem. If you know someone that would be a good fit...there is still time to enroll them. Do it! Help give direction to the next generation.

I like to think I have control over things in my world. The coronavirus reminded me I don't. Then Mother Nature smacked the back of my head and reminded me how little control I have. It's as obvious as the pandemic...but Missouri loggers have face some of the toughest times in finding opportunities to log. It's been going on for over a year and a half. Again, not looking for sympathy...because I understand just how valuable the time in the woods can be...but the weather is making it hard to schedule classes. I don't expect loggers to drop what they are doing so they can attend PTH or Continuing Education...just please, during these challenging times, remember the importance of training. In our self regulating industry, it's the training that help keeps political wolves at bay. It's also the training that provides the skill base to keep going home at night...a good, safe day in the woods.

Don't give up...we aren't. Keep your eyes open for training opportunities...and when you can...attend. Go ahead and sign up. If you have to back out because of a rare chance to work...we understand.

Maybe that's my message this month...we understand. MFPA is here for you. I take my job seriously. It isn't to schedule classes. It is to provide training opportunities. Hang in there! We are hanging with you. Be safe...be well.

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