



Safety Brief – 2020 – 12

Safety Brief Series

SPECIAL SAFETY BRIEF DURING COVID-19 Masks for Public Works First Responders

How do I obtain cloth or surgical masks for my employees who have to interact with the public?

A recent Executive Order from Governor Lamont directs “Any person in a public place in Connecticut who is unable to or does not maintain a safe social distance of approximately six feet from every other person shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face-covering.” There are a few ways in which this may be done.



- You may already have a source of masks and can provide them to your employees.
- Contact your local health department or the state Department of Public Health,
- You may be able to find a way to have staff make them internally.

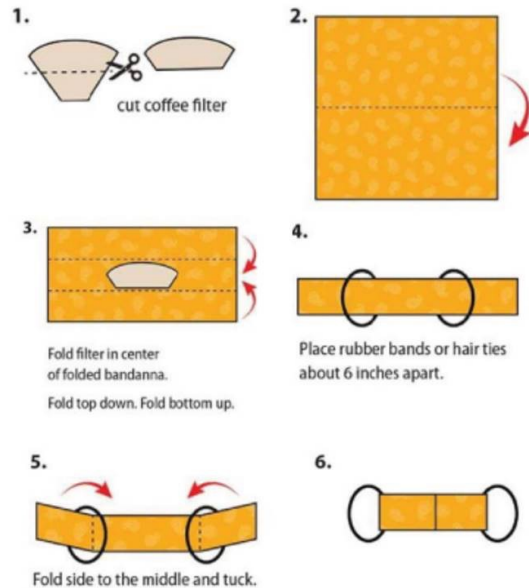
Remember, highway and public works department workers are considered essential in the Executive Orders, and the US Department of Homeland Security has defined as first responders, those public works employees “that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations.”

The State of Connecticut has partnered with the United Way 2-1-1 of Connecticut to set up a framework for donations of PPE for first responders. Residents or local businesses wishing to donate may be directed to www.211ct.org/DonationsCOVID19.

Making Your Own Masks: We can learn a lesson from the Cub Scouts:

MAKE A MASK USING YOUR NECKERCHIEF!

- 1** Start with a neckerchief and two hair ties. Rubber bands are okay as well, although they will be less comfortable.
- 2** Follow the handkerchief in half, along a horizontal axis, and make a nice crease.
- 3** Place piece of paper towel or coffee filter at the center of the handkerchief. Fold the top down and the bottom up, so that the coffee filter or paper towel rests in the fold.
- 4** Place your first elastic about one-third of the way in from the edge of the handkerchief. Place the second elastic one-third of the way in from the other side. The two elastics should be about one hand-width apart.
- 5** Fold the left side in toward the center and then fold the right side in toward the center, tucking the right side into the left-side flap.



Resources:

CDC Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings (includes a video tutorial on how to make a face covering)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

Executive Order No. 7BB

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7BB.pdf?la=en>

Homeland Security Presidential Directive

<https://fas.org/irp/offdocs/nspd/hspd-8.html>

Connecticut Safe Workplace Rules for Essential Employers

<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Safe-Workplace-Rules-for-Essential-Employers>

State of Connecticut COVID-19 Information Page

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>

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Tailgate Safety Talk Sign in Sheet

Topic: **Masks for Public Works First Responders**

Agency: _____

Crew: _____

Supervisor/Talk Leader: _____

Date: _____

Print Name

Signature

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