



FIRE APPARATUS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

TO: All FAMA Members
FR: The FAMA Board of Directors
RE: Qualifying as An Essential/Critical Business in light of State COVID-19 Shutdowns

As COVID-19 spreads throughout the general population, Governors are increasingly adopting “shelter in place” orders that have the effect of curtailing/prohibiting business operations.

In response to this situation, FAMA encourages its members to contact your Governor’s offices and/or the State Emergency Management Director to have your employees named as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers in the event the state’s Governor issues a “shelter in place” or equivalent order.

Yesterday, March 19, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security issued the following guidance memorandum on Essential Workers. It is extremely important to note that this is only guidance, and that States have the final say in determining who is an essential worker.

<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>

This Federal guidance does not specifically mention fire apparatus manufacturers, but the case can be made that FAMA members would be covered. For example, the guidance states:

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

- Workers necessary for the manufacturing of materials and products needed for medical supply chains, transportation, energy, communications, food and agriculture, chemical manufacturing, nuclear facilities, the operation of dams, water and wastewater treatment, emergency services, and the defense industrial base.

As you approach your State officials, here are some key points:

- If you are filling orders already placed by local fire and rescue departments, this is important to point out.
- Point out that you provide parts and service to existing vehicles and that fire and rescue departments have indicated they need you to stay operational (make sure this is the case).
- Indicate, where possible, that your products/apparatus serve rescue and medical response functions.
- Indicate that your company is critical in maintaining and expanding first responder capabilities.
- Indicate, if you are comfortable in doing so, that you want to be a resource to the state as the pandemic unfolds (extra vehicles, personnel familiar with the first responder community etc).

If you have already received an Essential Worker designation, please share it with us. It is important that other FAMA members be able to point to other states that have granted Essential Worker status to apparatus manufacturers. Precedent is powerful in this instance.

If you can, please try to solicit the support of your local first responders so they can back you up in your request.

This is a fast-evolving crisis that the country is in. We will continue to work on clarifications as events unfold.

Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,
The FAMA Board of Directors