

Honorable Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

Before the Health Director's Shelter In Place order Factory Pipe took steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 in our plant and reduce the possibility of spreading it in our community.

These steps taken include but are not limited to:

- Avoid close contact. Most common way Corona spreads is through respiratory droplets. Try and maintain 6' separation.
- Wash your hands ridiculously often and for 20 seconds.
- If you even might be sick, stay home. (Until further notice anyone lacking PTO will be granted "Company Convenience" if they stay home because they feel sick)
- If you sneeze or cough avoid other people (try not to cough towards someone else) and then wash your hands.
- Breakroom and other eating surfaces will be cleaned every day with a CDC recommended solution of 1/3 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water.
- As of 3/13 morning there has not been a single reported case of COVID-19 in Mendocino County and certainly none at Factory Pipe.

Flyers (attached) were put up every where and a plant wide meeting was called to spread the info.

At 10:00 PM Wednesday night we ceased operations per the order. We contacted our customers and advised them that we were ceasing operations and not knowing if we would be able to ship later we shipped any finished goods we had in inventory. I asked how many of the lines were already shut down out of 10-15. One. Out of hundreds of suppliers only one line was shut down because of a part shortage relating to the corona virus. Now were shutting down 5 lines. Even more significant because we just shut them down last October.

But if this Shelter In Place order will slow the spread of COVID-19 it's worth it . . . we're all in this together.

Or are we?

What I saw this morning when I went and unloaded a truck of inventory, an allowed activity due to chance of ruining inventory, is that Factory Pipe was apparently the only company that shut down. Maverick, MFP, every winery, gas station, auto parts houses, motorcycle shops, hardware store etc. was open. Hoymen Art Studio was proudly open as their product was exempt because "it made people feel better". I believe we are entitled to an exemption because we supply product to auto repair/service, deemed an essential service. But wanting to be a responsible corporate citizen we ceased operations. But the order has so many exemptions, and the Governor's order is even weaker and the exemptions are far greater, that are being creatively interpreted that seemingly every business that is not a bar or restaurant has been able to stay open. I'm willing to take a hit and stay closed but not when every other business is open and running full tilt boogie. Those businesses are thwarting the effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, as it is written and currently enforced there doesn't seem to be much point for Factory Pipe to make these sacrifices alone.

If the order is not written to the point it is meaningful Factory Pipe will resume operations Monday.

Respectfully,

Ross H. Liberty, President
Factory Pipe, LLC