

APPRENTICESHIP

CTCNC Creates Training Options During the Pandemic

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The Carpenters Training Committee for Northern California (CTCNC) has stepped up to the challenge of providing training, while holding to the restrictions of COVID-19 protocols. Rather than waiting to get back to “normal training,” CTCNC has developed a system to train apprentices in hands-on skills while still observing social distancing and so far, it’s been very successful.

To avoid crowded hallways, classrooms and breakrooms protocols have been put in place to restrict unauthorized entry to training facilities. This has involved developing a COVID-19 symptom checklist of questions, access wristbands, temperature checks, sanitization stations and the creation of personal study zones. Classes have also been limited to nine students for a 7-hour instructional day.

The introductory class can be taken, in part, through live and interactive Zoom video conferencing. After that, apprentices are scheduled to appear for class Monday morning. Apprentices must go through the COVID-19 symptom checklist and other protocols, and are given their classroom assignment. In class, apprentices are required to wear facemasks and shields and have dividers between the desks. Instructors are also required to wear facemasks and face shields while teaching and stand behind a mobile instructor cart while teaching in class



Apprentices wear facemasks and shields when in the classroom.



An instructor oversees an apprentice's work, while remaining 6' away.

For the following 2 days, apprentices interact with their instructor over Zoom, and the final two days of training are scheduled at a training facility. Here, students are issued their own power tools and hands-on lessons take place in engineered personal training zones. Engineered personal training zones are 10'x10' work areas located outside, with a 6' access-controlled barrier and an elevated platform, so instructors can oversee apprentices work.

CTCNC recently started running a 36-hour rigging awareness class completely through a live and

interactive Zoom. This non-certification class provides essential training and an understanding of the hazards and dangers of working around a crane. A partial distance learning class in infectious control risk assessment has also been created. After an apprentice completes the theory portion of this class, they come in for the hands-on portion in the engineered personal training zones.

Although the live video conferencing method of teaching has been very successful, CTCNC will go back to in-person training as soon as it is safe to do so. In-person training has always proven to be the best learning experience for apprentices and journey-level workers alike. In the meantime, CTCNC will continue to adapt to any changes and strive to provide the best training opportunities possible.