



Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors

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SURVEYING AN 'ESSENTIAL BUSINESS' UNDER COVID-19 STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS

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Gov. Eric Holcomb issued four executive orders Monday requiring all non-essential workers to stay at home other than for necessary trips like health care and food.

There is a long list of industries and professions that are exempted, like public safety and medical workers. Unfortunately, surveying is not expressly listed in this list, but in consultation with an attorney and the State of Indiana's Critical Industries Hotline, it is the position of ISPLS that surveying qualifies as "Essential Business" under the Executive Orders.

- Section 14J: Critical Trades states that "building, construction, and other trades, including, but not limited to..." are exempt. While it doesn't list Surveyors specifically, there won't be any construction getting down if Surveyors aren't allowed to work.
- Section 14T: Professional Services states that "...real estate services" (including appraisal and title services) are also exempt. While it doesn't list Surveyors specifically, Surveyors are an essential part of that process.
- Section 11: Essential Infrastructure lists numerous construction-related professions and supporting trades, then goes on to say, "the phrases 'Essential Infrastructure' shall be constructed broadly in order to avoid any impacts to essential infrastructure, broadly defined." Surveyors fall under a broad definition of essential infrastructure necessary to keep construction projects moving forward.

ISPLS also reached out to the [State of Indiana's Critical Industries Hotline](#), established in the wake of Gov. Holcomb's Executive Orders to clarify industry questions regarding how various professions are impacted by the Orders. A representative told us Surveying qualifies as Essential Business and is exempt from the Stay-at-Home Order so long as you abide by the other aspects of the Order (e.g., limit gatherings to no more than 10 people, practice social distancing of at least 6 feet).

You may read the Executive Orders in their entirety here:

- [Order 20-08: Directive for Hoosiers to Stay at Home](#)
- [Order 20-09: Continuity of Government](#)
- [Order 20-10: Enforcement of Prohibition of In-Person Dining](#)
- [Order 20-11: Carryout Consumption of Alcohol](#)

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ABOUT US

The philosophy of ISPLS is to encourage all who are in the surveying profession to value professional ethics in thought and deed, to maintain competency in performance of duties, to insure trustworthiness, to provide quality in work, and to constantly protect the public interest.

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