



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Attention of Federal & State Governments

FROM: The National Lime Association

SUBJECT: Lime Production is Essential for these Reasons

DATE: March 18, 2020

Lime Industry Statement on Essentiality of Lime Manufacturing for Public Health and Welfare in the Coronavirus Crisis

The lime industry believes that its first duty is to protect the safety and health of its workers and their families and communities, and we are committed to following the directives and recommendations of government authorities during the coronavirus outbreak. Our companies have already taken numerous steps to protect our workforce, including telework where possible, and otherwise following the guidelines of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

At the same time, it is important for governmental authorities to understand that lime products are extensively used in essential functions of our society. Lime, or calcium oxide, is a mineral product produced by processing limestone. Lime is a raw material and a building block for many products. Stopping lime production would severely impact many critical downstream industries in the supply chain as explained below:

1. Lime is used in the purification of drinking water, treatment of wastewater, treatment and sanitization of sludges from water and wastewater treatment, and scrubbing of air emissions from incinerators, power plants, and industrial plants. Lime is also used in many environmental applications, including hazardous waste site remediation.
2. Lime is an essential element in the production of numerous materials that will continue to be needed in the course of a medical crisis, such as paper products (including toilet paper), as well as latex and glass products used in medical applications.
3. Lime products are also used in the production of animal feed, food and medicinal products (antacids, stabilizers, vitamins, etc.).

4. Lime is also used in products that have been recognized as part of the Critical Infrastructure Sector, including steel and other metal products. See <https://www.cisa.gov/critical-manufacturing-sector>.
5. Lime products are typically not stored or stockpiled for a long period of time, with most of the industry practicing on demand production and delivery. If lime production were to cease, stocks of lime for the uses mentioned above would be rapidly depleted, in some cases in a matter of days.

Accordingly, when governmental authorities are crafting response plans and directives, they should consult the lime industry and be included among those essential industries that need to continue functioning during the coronavirus crisis; albeit with continued proper precautions regarding workplace safety.

The lime industry stands ready to assist authorities in developing plans and precautions, and to do whatever we can to protect those we employ and those we serve.