Identify Essential Functions for Onsite Sewage Systems (OSS) and Large OSS (LOSS) Operation

Governor’s Proclamation 20-25 bans businesses from doing non-essential business. This is in effect from midnight on March 25, 2020 until midnight on April 6, 2020.

The Appendix to Proclamation 20-25 labels the following workers as Essential under the “Emergency Services Sector” (page 3): Workers like plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of homes.

The failure of an onsite sewage system is a serious health threat to the residents near it. This document names essential activities that go along with responding to onsite sewage system failures, repairs, and upkeep.

**Essential Tasks for OSS and LOSS**

**Respond to system failures:**
- Do field work to confirm an OSS or LOSS failure.
- Do the repair work. You may need to:
  - Assess the soil and site.
  - Design proper OSS/LOSS repairs.
  - Carry out the repair work.
  - Inspect the repair work.

**Prevent system failures with required routine operating and maintenance tasks:**
- Monitor and maintain septic tanks and pump tanks.
- Monitor (include samples) sewage treatment units.
- Maintain drainfield dispersal units.
- Pump, haul, and dispose of septage and sewage.
- Fill out all required reports for the above. Do any other work that a local health agency or department of health says is necessary.

**Guidance** to help those with direct duties for on-site sewage systems is found at: [https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/WastewaterMgtGuide.pdf](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/WastewaterMgtGuide.pdf)

**Additional COVID-19 Resources**
- DOH Coronavirus (COVID-19) webpage – updated information and resources daily
- Local Health Jurisdictions
- Workplace and Employers
- Persons Who are at Higher Risk for Serious Illness
- Communities and Community Organizations

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- Stigma Reduction
- How Can I Be Prepared for a COVID-19 Outbreak?

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