

Attempted ICE Jobsite Visits: What You Need To Know

The Columbus/Central Ohio Building Construction Trades Council is aware of potential United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) visits to jobsites and construction employers here in Central Ohio.

Unfortunately, these recent actions have pitted U.S.-born workers against immigrants, weakening our union solidarity and bargaining position. Low-road non-union contractors have historically relied on cheap immigrant labor to lower their cost of doing business, and it has allowed them to take economic advantage of workers who often believe they cannot complain about wage or safety violations due to their immigrant status. Oftentimes, low-paying construction projects with immigrant labor are the focus of the organizing efforts, both to add new members and recoup market share to protect our existing, pensioned membership.

To that end, we feel it is important that we share with our affiliated Local Unions the information below to share with your members and contractors. Hopefully, this information and these resources can help with both jobsite questions and potential organizing efforts. Ultimately, our role is to support our union members and ensure safe and properly staffed jobsites, as well as resources to support our membership as they navigate these current circumstances.

Workplace/jobsite entry

Agents may enter a workplace only with the employer’s permission or with a valid judicial warrant. A valid judicial warrant must be signed by a federal judge or magistrate and must name a person or place to be searched. It is important that assumptions should not be made about workplace entry **without valid proof of agents on premises**. ICE agents have consistently relied on so-called “administrative warrants” to gain access to property and detain individuals. A property owner can decline access to ICE agents if they only have an administrative warrant.

Should agents arrive on a job site it is important that workers remember:

Do not run.

- Do not fight back.
- Remain silent OR say your name OR tell officials if you are the primary caregiver of a child under 18.
- Request a copy of the judicial warrant ICE agents are relying upon to enter the property to detain a worker (only workers without concerns of immigrant status should engage with ICE agents regarding the request for a judicial warrant).

Columbus Building Trades Council

www.ColumbusConstruction.org

If you are an observer or steward during a jobsite raid please inform the Local Union:

- Who has footage of the raid or can recall specific details to provide notes that paint a picture of what happened at the worksite, minute by minute?
- Who was taken? Lists of workers.
- Which workers have kids in school? Does school know?
- Do workers have family directives? Other emergency contacts?
- Where are workers detained? ICE detainee locator - search by A number, or local lawyers go immediately to local jails or ICE facilities.
<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search>
- What is worker's nationality? Is consulate informed?
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/consularnotification/ConsularNotificationandAcc>

What Unions Can Provide

Know your rights cards provided by the AFL-CIO: <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas>.

Resources for finding reputable immigration lawyers:

<https://www.cliniclegal.org/find-legal-help>

<https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory/>

Legal listservs for immigration legal service providers and public defenders:

<https://www.ilrc.org/legal-listservs>

Contacts within local resources: <https://www.crisohio.org/services/legal-services>