In response to Greater Boston’s critical healthcare needs during the coronavirus pandemic, McDonald Electrical Corp. (MEC), based in Hingham, MA, working in tandem with general contractor, Suffolk Construction, provided fast turnaround electrical installations required in the set-up of temporary medical isolation tent facilities for Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) in Boston and Cambridge.

The NECA contractor performed electrical work at the COVID-19 temporary medical tent facility at 112 Southampton Street in Boston, next to the Southampton Street Shelter, from March 17th to 20th. The project entailed installation of convenience outlets, lighting, heat, special ventilation systems, smoke detectors, emergency lights, and exit signs as well as wiring for bathroom trailers and portable shower rooms. A temporary generator was utilized to power the Southampton facility. The South End facility has two tents: one has 20 separate bays to quarantine asymptomatic patients; the other has capacity for 16 patients with COVID-19 symptoms.

McDonald Electrical provided electrical installations at the second BHCHP temporary emergency medical facility, located at 1640 Cambridge Street in Cambridge, from March 31st to April 2nd. The medical isolation tents at both facilities are being used for the COVID-19 screening, testing, patient care, and quarantining of an increasing number of non-critical care homeless persons who have contracted the virus.

McDonald project managers Dave Keenan and Linzie LaRusse headed the MEC project team, managing a crew nine IBEW Local 103 electricians – Mike Baker, Brian Bates, John Sullivan, David Wilkey, Justin Allen, Marc Dilworth, Jordan Barry, Connor Fallon, and Kevin Ferstler. The team worked 12-hour days to complete the electrical construction for the projects within only a matter of a few days.

“We received the call from Suffolk Construction on March 16th, visited the site, and hit the ground running on St. Patrick’s Day,” said Keenan. “Suffolk managed the project very effectively, and the McDonald Electrical team is proud to have been able to provide emergency response to the city’s urgent healthcare needs, and that Suffolk entrusted us with the project.”

NECA Hosts Safety Stand Down for COVID-19 Crisis

On April 29, NECA hosted a Safety Stand Down to recognize the many electricians and utility workers who have been deemed essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and continue to go to work each day and make sacrifices to better our country. NECA Boston contractors and their personnel joined with contractors throughout the U.S. to review company protocols and jobsite conditions, and ask questions, bringing focus to health and safety guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization, and the Occupational Safety & Health Administration. Subcontractors, owners, architects and engineers also joined in the event.

As the leading voice of the electrical construction industry in the nation, NECA has taken a proactive role to keep our contractors and workers informed of all government-mandated policies relating to COVID-19, as well as to ensure the most stringent safety measures are employed in the workplace and on construction sites.

NECA Boston Chapter continues to work with state and local officials in our jurisdiction, the building trades, and our contractor association partners to establish guidelines that will allow these sites to safely reopen in Boston, and state-wide in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine.
Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, NECA Greater Boston contractors and our teams of skilled union electricians and technicians from IBEW Locals 103, 490, 567, and 1253 are responding by providing essential electrical and telecom services – ensuring our region’s critical facilities remain fully operational with the heroic support that our front lines of healthcare workers, law enforcement, and public safety professionals provide to our communities.

Please stay safe and follow CDC and all city, state, regional, and national guidelines. Together we will get through this and continue to build a bright future.