



Lead Lines



Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter
International Society of Explosives Engineers
www.easternpaisee.com

Volume 21 Number 2

Spring 2014

The Eastern PA ISEE welcomes requests for topics, and invites readers' letters and other contributions that relate to drilling, blasting, seismology and explosives engineering.

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May Chapter Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Hollywood Casino

777 Hollywood Blvd, Grantville, PA 17028

Join us in the Epic Buffet for the Chapter Meeting

6:00pm - Registration/Social Hour

6:30pm - General Meeting

6:45pm - Dinner

7:15pm - Featured Speakers

Kenneth K. Eltschlager

Office of Surface Mining

"Crisis! News Media Response"

Bill Wahl

ISEE Marketing Manager

"New Online Resources"

Please RSVP to Dan Leach

717.574.4024 or dan.leach@am.dynonobel.com

The cost is \$30.00 per person.

Please make checks payable to: Eastern PA Chapter ISEE

Directions: From 81, take exit 80 and follow signs for the Hollywood Casino. The casino will be 1 1/2 miles off the exit, on your right. Meet at the Epic Buffet.



Letter from The President

Dear Chapter,

We are excited to announce that the next Chapter Meeting has a new venue —the Hollywood Casino in Grantville, PA. We have a new agenda, open discussions and guest speakers Kenneth K. Eltschlager, who will talk about crisis and news media response, and Bill Wahl, who will talk about some of the new resources the ISEE has developed to support members and industry. The meeting will take place at the Epic Buffet. When you arrive, just let the cashier know you are there for the ISEE Chapter Meeting. Plan to attend and bring a friend!



Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership, paid their dues, and placed an advertisement in the newsletter! If you haven't updated your membership status, there is still time! You should have received a reminder in the mail about Individual or Corporate membership. More information can be found on page 13 or on our website.

A membership includes:

- * Quarterly dinner meetings with speakers on relevant topics that keep you up to date with our ever changing industry.
- * Access to our Eastern Pa Chapter website and the electronic *Lead Lines* quarterly newsletter.
- * Networking and continuing education opportunities at our quarterly meetings and at the coveted Penn State Drilling & Blasting Conference.
- * Access to an online library of relevant topics and regulations.
- * The opportunity to apply for college scholarships.

Stay safe,

Scott



Featured Speaker Profile

Kenneth K. Eltschlager

At the May chapter meeting, guest presenter Kenneth K. Eltschlager from the Office of Surfacing Mining Reclamation and Enforcement will present, "Crisis! News Media Response". This presentation will help blasters and managers develop strategies to answer questions, gather information, develop a response and avoid tragic misstatements.



Ken is a mining engineer with the Office of Surface Mining where he has worked on coal mine blasting related issues since 1989. He provides technical assistance and advice to the states, investigates citizen complaints and assesses

property damage from blasting. He is an instructor for OSM technical training classes on blasting, mine gases, GPS and public relations. As the OSM Blaster Certificate Coordinator, Ken administers the OSM blaster certificate program and helps the States and other Federal Agencies conduct blaster certification and continuing education training.

Ken is a past director of the ISEE and has chaired the Blast Vibration and Seismograph Section and Public Education and Public Relations committee. He is the current chair of the ISEE Standards Committee.

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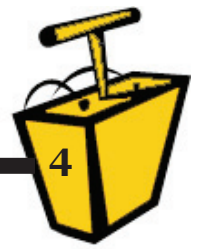
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Featured Speaker Profile

Bill Wahl

Guest presenter Bill Wahl from the International Society of Explosives Engineers will talk about the new resources the ISEE has developed to support members and industry. These resources include a revamped online database, abstract search, Blaster's Toolkit and the World of Explosives website.

Bill is the Marketing Manager of International Society of Explosives Engineers. He has been with the ISEE since June 2012. He has helped develop online tools for ISEE members and explosives industry



professionals, and worked with ISEE staff and members to implement new communication initiatives to educate community leaders about the blasting process.

Bill has more than nine years of marketing and communications experience, working in both nonprofit and agency settings, where he developed communications plans, created media relations programs and launched social media campaigns. He attended Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, and earned a bachelor's degree in public relations in 2005.

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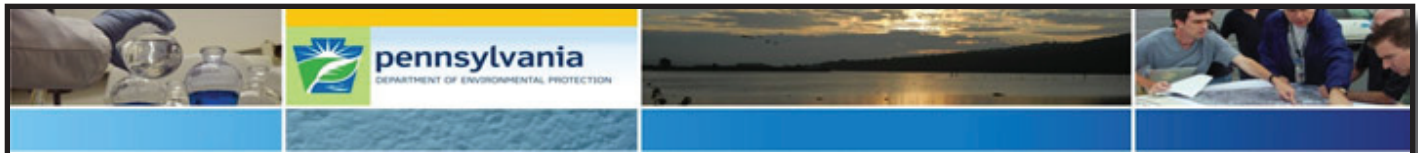
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Letter from The Chief

Dear Eastern PA ISEE Newsletter readers,

In a July 2010 Eastern PA Newsletter message I explained that Blasting Activity Permits (BAP's) are an essential tool to effectively regulate construction blasting and benefit both DEP and the explosives industry. A Surface Mining Permit (SMP) authorizing blasting on any mine site [detailed in Module 16 (quarries and coal mines) or Module 28 (underground mine opening)] is considered a BAP. As many of you are probably aware, DEP is working to have permits that more accurately reflect the blasting that is actually going to occur on a BAP or mining permit. When someone is seeking a DEP permit and the permitted activity has the potential to cause a nuisance (a violation of the regulations- i.e. flyrock, gas violation, ground vibration, airblast over the limit, or damage to property), DEP must determine the likelihood of the occurrence of the violation of the regulations,

and if need be, take steps to require the applicant to prevent or minimize the risk of an occurrence of a violation. This is largely done through the permitting process. An application describing the activity is submitted to DEP and the application is reviewed. If the information in the application indicates that it is realistic that the activities can be conducted as proposed, a permit is issued.

Many of you are probably aware that in most cases blasting that is currently being conducted is in compliance with the regulations. Since blasting is usually being conducted in compliance with the regulations, what BAP applications need to reflect is what you are actually going to do. This may require somewhat more communication and planning ahead than is currently being done. In the

Continued on page 7

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Letter from The Chief Continued

case of mining blasting operations, much more coordination with the mine operators (permittees on mining permits) will need to be done. Many of the blast plans for mining operations and some BAP's currently in use have unnecessarily broad loading plan parameters because the blasting contractors and/or the mining operators wish to be able to address all or any situations which may arise, many of which will not realistically occur. With broad loading plan parameters blast plan applications do not provide DEP with sufficient information to demonstrate that there is a reasonable expectation that an applicant/permittee could conduct blasting activities in compliance with the regulations. Additionally, many of the existing permits do not provide the blaster-in-charge with any meaningful guidelines and they provide no assurances to people living near a mine that guidelines to ensure the safety of them, their families or their property exist.

DEP is currently working on modifying BAP/Blast Plan application forms to make providing the information necessary to properly evaluate proposed blasting activities easier, which will lead to better permits. We will soon be conducting outreach efforts with the explosives industry to get your comments on draft forms to make them even better. Better BAPs and Blast Plans will be beneficial to DEP, the explosives industry, and the mining industry.

Please be safe!

Rick



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Patrick Fromm Receives Scholarship

The Pennsylvania College of Technology awarded Patrick Fromm of Mechanicsburg the Eastern PA Chapter of the International Society of Explosives Engineers Scholarship for the 2013/2014 academic year.

Patrick is a senior in the Civic Engineering Technology bachelor's program. He was awarded \$600 which is split between the fall and spring semester.



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Keep Experienced Miners Safe

By Therese Dunphy | Published on February 21, 2014 in Aggregates Manager

When it comes to ensuring mine safety, much focus is placed on new miners. After all, whether new to the industry or new to the site, it's important to educate this segment of personnel on potential hazards.

But, as 2013 metal/non-metal fatality statistics show, it's every bit as important, and maybe more so, to keep experienced miners focused on safety. Take a look at the experience of the miners involved in 2013's 22 metal/non-metal fatalities:

- * Less than one year of experience: 2 fatalities;
- * One to two years of experience: 2 fatalities;
- * Four to 10 years of experience: 5 fatalities;
- * 11 to 20 years of experience: 6 fatalities;
- * 21 to 30 years of experience: 4 fatalities; and
- * More than 30 years of experience: 3 fatalities.

As much as we'd prefer to believe otherwise, it's clear that experience does not equal safe work behaviors among all miners. Familiarity can also breed complacency and over-confidence.

During your next safety meeting or tailgate session, make sure to engage all miners – regardless of experience – in ongoing safety training. Solicit best practices. Pair them up to mentor less experienced miners. Above all, make sure they understand that there is no substitute for safe workplace behaviors.



Courtesy <http://www.aggman.com>



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Note From the Editor

If you have any articles or pictures you would like to share with the rest of the Eastern PA ISEE community, please email them to kristink@vibratechinc.com.

Next year the Eastern PA Chapter will celebrate its 20th Anniversary! Please email photos, both past and present, to include in our celebration issue.



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Mike Rowe talks about the dirty topic of educating future workers

By Therese Dunphy | Published on March 4, 2014 in Aggregates Manager

At a media event on Monday, March 3, Dirty Jobs star Mike Rowe discussed the need to change the image of trade skills jobs and encourage more young people to choose careers in skilled trades.

As part of the collaborative effort between Caterpillar and mikeroweWORKS Foundation, scholarships are being offered at trade schools around the country for “work ethics scholarships.” Another round of those scholarships, with UTI, was announced earlier this month.

“I’m busier than I’ve ever been working with the foundation and with Caterpillar, focusing on the skills gap, focusing on alternative education, focusing on work ethics scholarships, and, mostly, a kind of pr campaign for hard work,” Rowe said. “That’s really what brought us together in the first place.”

As the 2008 recession was taking hold, Rowe says that he began to see “something curious” as he worked on Dirty Jobs: help wanted signs. “It just seemed odd, given the fact that the headlines were what they were, to see so much opportunity,” he recalls. “No matter where I went, I heard the same story over and over again from employers – how difficult it was to find people who were willing to learn a new skill, retrain, retool, show up early, stay late.



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“It got me thinking that something was disconnected, fundamentally,” he said. “We started talking about the jobs themselves, that were often overlooked, and we started to look at the link between the jobs that were available and the relationship the country had with the education that was required to get that job and we started to see even more disconnects.”

Rowe Continued on page 12



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Surface Drilling Specialist

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Rowe Continued

Rowe attributed part of that disconnect to the bias against technical skills that pervades much of the modern education system, and society in general. He talked about a meeting with his own high school guidance counselor, who reviewed his academic results and pointed him toward a couple of four-year programs and described a poster that portrayed the idea of a four year college graduate being set for life while a mechanic was shown as the “cautionary tale” of what happens to people who don’t pursue higher education. Rowe said he didn’t know what he wanted to do and planned to attend a two-year technical school, which the guidance counselor advised him against.

Conquering this bias is one of the challenges the industry faces as it seeks the next generation of workers. “It would be okay if they ignored (skilled trades), but they use them as cautionary tales,” he said. But the path to success isn’t that linear Rowe added, noting that he met a former Cat employee in North Dakota who works his own hours, has paid off his mortgage and is earning an annual income of \$160,000.



Courtesy <http://www.aggman.com>

“You don’t have to go into debt to get the jobs that are actually out there,” he said. And while it’s not an easy task to change the image of the industry, the dirty job of its advocates, he says, is to keep talking about it.

Profoundly Disconnected

Talking about the important role construction workers play in the nation’s success is just what Mike Rowe does in his book, *Profoundly Disconnected: A True Confession from Mike Rowe*. The one-paragraph book (with extended preface and appendix) showcases his affection and appreciation for the various construction fields.

Rowe Continued on page 14



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Rowe Continued

The book jacket says it all, "In many ways, we have declared a cultural war on work, and the casualties are all around us. How else can we explain millions of jobs that no one seems to want, at a time when so many are out of work? Or a trillion dollars in student loans when just 12 percent of all jobs require a four-year degree? Or the systematic removal of vocational education from high schools around the country, at a time when most viable opportunities require those very skills? In short, how did we manage to get our heads this far up our own butt, and is there any hope of every pulling it out?"

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