



Lead Lines



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

Volume 23 Number 2

Spring 2016

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 26, 2016

Hollywood Casino

777 Hollywood Blvd, Grantville, PA 17028

Join us in the Epic Buffet for the Chapter Meeting

5:30pm - Registration/Social Hour

6:15pm - Dinner

7:00pm - General Meeting

7:30pm - Guest Speaker

Trooper Joseph A. DeFluri III

Hazardous Device & Explosives Section

Pennsylvania State Police

Bureau of Emergency & Special Operations

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 1.5 miles off the exit, on your right. Meet at the Epic Buffet.



Letter from The President

Dear Chapter,

At our May meeting we will be electing several members to serve in Chapter leadership roles. We are currently looking for the following positions:

- Chapter Vice President
- Board of Directors
- Regulatory Committee Chair
- Training Committee Chair



The Chapter Vice President is responsible for assisting the President oversee Chapter initiatives and committees, making sure the Chapter continues to provide industry professionals with educational and networking opportunities. The Vice President meets with the executive committee and board of directors three to four times a year. The Vice President will run meetings in the President's absence.

The Board of Directors are responsible for overseeing Chapter initiatives and committees, making sure the Chapter continues to provide industry professionals with educational and networking opportunities. The Board of Directors meets three to four times a year.

The Committee Chairs are responsible for facilitating their committee goals for the Chapter membership. For example, the training chair would be responsible for organizing a training program and the regulatory chair would be responsible for communicating regulatory information to Chapter membership.

If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else, please contact me to be added to the list of nominations. The Chapter membership will vote on these nominations at the May 26th meeting.

Stay Safe,

Scott



Guest Speaker

Tpr. Joseph A. DeFluri III

Trooper Joseph DeFluri, Bomb Technician, Hazardous Device & Explosives Section with the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Emergency & Special Operations will speak at the May 26th Chapter meeting.

With over 24 years of service, Trooper DeFluri enlisted with the State Police in 1991. He worked uniform patrol for 15 years and has been on the bomb squad for 10 years. Trooper DeFluri is a certified bomb technician and is trained in explosive disposal techniques, homemade explosives, advanced electronics, post blast investigation, and military ordnance. He is also an explosive breacher and hazmat technician.

Trooper DeFluri will speak about the role of bomb squads, technicians and their use of explosives. He will also discuss the Pennsylvania State Police, his squad and how he uses explosives on the job.

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Chapter Leadership Nominations

The Eastern PA Chapter is seeking nominations for executive, board of director and committee leadership roles. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else, please contact Scott Mueller or any member of the Board of Directors to be added to the list of nominations.

The Chapter will vote on these nominations at the May 26th meeting.

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REGULATORY RANT

Is it Spring yet? The regulatory climate today is similar to the crazy weather patterns we've been having lately. Some regulatory changes come in quickly like hurricane winds and die down just as quickly. Some slowly blow in and hang around like a fog for a while. While I'm ranting, a lot of times when things seem to be clearing up on the compliance front a new regulatory storm brews up and changes the game again!

Things that are brewing:

Unfortunately we can expect some MSHA reaction to "blast site security" rules of thumb because of the recent fatal gram below.

METAL/NONMETAL MINE FATALITY – On March 22, 2016, a 42-year old lead man with 6 years of mining experience was fatally injured at a surface limestone mine when he was struck by fly rock from blasting operations. The lead man was parked in his pickup truck at a location to prevent others from accessing the blasting site. He was approximately 1,200 feet from the blast area. This is the 1st Blasting and Breaking Agents fatality in 2016. There were no Blasting and Breaking Agents fatalities in the same period in 2015. From <http://arlweb.msha.gov/fatals/metal/2016/>.

On the DOT front...

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced January 15 a rulemaking proposal designed to update FMCSA's safety rating methodology by integrating on-road safety data from inspections, along with the results of carrier investigations and crash reports, to determine a motor carrier's overall safety fitness on a monthly updated basis. The proposed Safety Fitness Determination (SFD) rule would replace the current three-tier federal rating system of "Satisfactory, Conditional and Unsatisfactory" for federally regulated commercial motor carriers (in place since 1982) with a single determination of Unfit, which would require the carrier to either improve its operations or shut down. Reported From *Commercial Carrier Journal Magazine*.

Continued on page 8



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CVSA's 2016 International Roadcheck Three-Day Enforcement Campaign to Take Place June 7-9 with Special Emphasis on Tire Safety. Each year, International Roadcheck places special emphasis on a category of violations. The special emphasis for 2016 International Roadcheck is tire safety (i.e., measuring the tire tread depth, checking the tire pressure, checking to make sure no items are lodged between dual tires, and examining the overall condition of the tire to ensure no deep cuts or bulges exist in the sidewalls of the tire). While checking a vehicle's tires is always part of roadside inspections, CVSA is highlighting tire safety as a reminder to drivers and carriers. From http://www.cvsa.org/programs/int_roadcheck_2016.php

Some clearing skies...

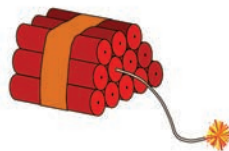
Our chapter and individual members made significant comments to the 25 Pa. Code, Chapters 210 and 211 proposed rule published in the PA Bulletin on February 27, 2016. The public comment period closed on March 28, 2016. CURRENT STATUS: Proposed. Background: Proposed rulemaking approved by the EQB at its September 15, 2015, meeting. Rulemaking was presented to the Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board as well as the Aggregate Advisory Board. From *DEP Regulatory Update March 25, 2016*

CONTACT: Rick Lamkie, 814-472-1885, rlamkie@pa.gov

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REGULATORY RANT

On the OSHA horizon...

Under 29 CFR §1904.39, employers must report an in-patient hospitalization, amputation, or eye loss to OSHA within 24 hours of the incident. Under previous guidance, the recommended maximum fine for failing to comply was \$1,000, not including reductions for small businesses and other allowances. The new recommended unadjusted penalty is \$5,000. However, as before, the new guidelines permit area directors to boost the fine to \$7,000 to achieve the “necessary deterrent effect” for such reporting violations, which will still be classified as “other than serious.” The penalty for failure to report a fatality or three or more in-patient hospitalizations within eight hours and other work-related events remains unchanged, according to the agency. OSHA issued 627 citations for reporting violations in fiscal year 2015, with fines averaging \$1,445. *Reported from Bloomberg BNA.*

In conclusion the regulatory environment like the weather is always in a constant state of change. Don't sweat it! Our industry has a stellar record for surviving the weather good or bad. What the heck we don't just survive it our guys work successfully in it more often than most!

I'm sure we can do the same with the ever changing regulatory climate!

Thanks for listening and always be safe.

John Benedict
Regulatory Committee



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Mark You Calendars

May 26, 2016

Spring Chapter Meeting
Hollywood Casino Grantville, PA

August 4, 2016

Iron Pigs Baseball Game
Coca-Cola Park
Allentown, PA

November 3, 2016

Fall Chapter Meeting
Location TBD



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MSHA Issues Blasting Fatalgram, Offers Best Practices

By Kerry Clines | Published on April 8, 2016 in Aggregates Manager

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) reports that, on March 22, 2016, a 42-year old lead man with six years of mining experience was fatally injured at a surface limestone mine when he was struck by fly rock from blasting operations. The lead man was parked in his pickup truck at a location approximately 1,200 feet from the blast area to prevent others from accessing the blasting site.

MSHA offers the following Best Practices to help prevent this type of accident:

- Review and follow site-specific blast plan prior to loading any explosives.
- Utilize technology, such as face profilers and borehole probes, to obtain specific geometric details of the material to be blasted.
- Adjust stemming depth and/or decking to maintain adequate burden on all sections of the blast hole.
- Develop a drill pattern by considering geology, face geometry, and surface topography.

Continued on page 13

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Fatalgram Continued

- Clear and remove all persons from the blast area unless suitable blasting shelters are provided to protect persons from flyrock. Allow at least 15 seconds after a blast for any flyrock to drop.
- Examine blast site geology, communicate with the driller, and review the drill log for angles, voids, competency of rock, loss of air, etc., prior to the loading of any explosives. Make appropriate adjustments to ensure that the holes are not overloaded.
- Ensure blasting and fly rock areas are properly calculated to ensure the blast site is clear of all persons.
- Determine the actual burden for all face holes along their length and adjust the explosive power factor along the borehole accordingly.

Additional information on blasting safety can be found on the MSHA website at http://arlweb.msha.gov/Accident_Prevention/categories/drillblast.htm.

This is the first Blasting and Breaking Agents fatality, but the third overall fatality reported in metal/non-metal mining for calendar year 2016.

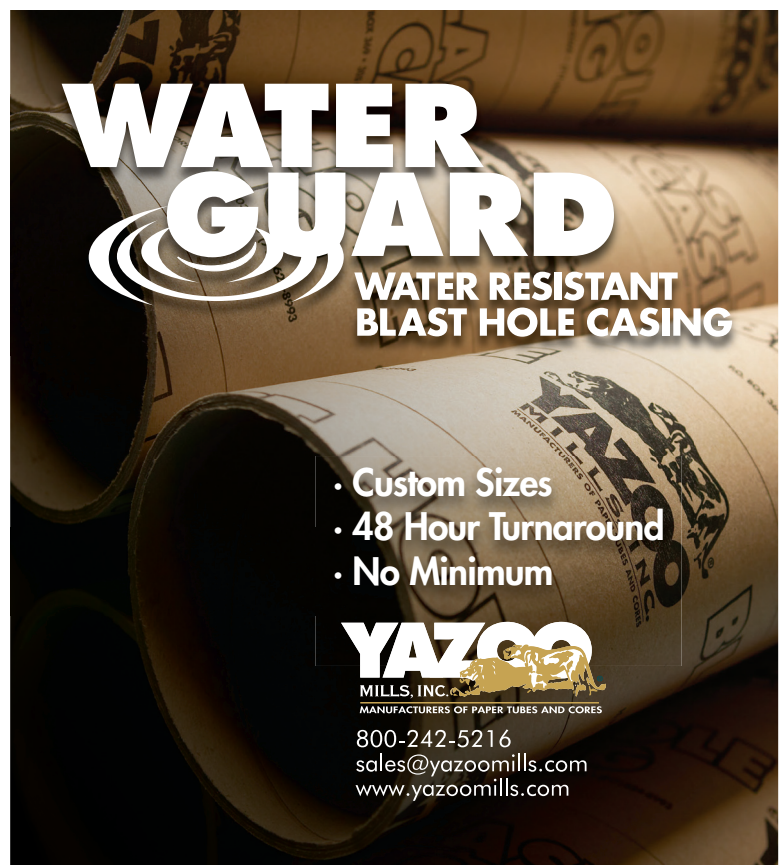


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I Chose To Look the Other Way

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

It wasn't that I didn't care;
I had the time, and I was there.

But I didn't want to seem a fool,
Or argue over a safety rule.
I knew he'd done the job before;
If I spoke up he might get sore.

The changes didn't seem that bad;
I'd done the same, he knew I had.
So I shook my head and walked by;
He knew the risks as well as I.

He took the chance, I closed an eye;
And with that act, I let him die.
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

Now every time I see his wife,
I know I should have saved his life.
That guilt is something I must bear;
But isn't something you need to share.

If you see a risk that others take
That puts their health or life at stake,
The question asked or thing you say;
Could help them live another day.

If you see a risk and walk away,
Then hope you never have to say,
"I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way."

By Don Merrill

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