



Lead Lines



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

Volume 27 Number 2

Winter 2020

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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MSHA Response to COVID-19

The Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) mission is to protect the safety and health of the nation's miners. As long as miners continue to work at a mine, MSHA will continue to perform its statutorily-required essential functions within the parameters of the President's and Department's guidance, as well as that of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

MSHA has received a high volume of questions regarding the Coronavirus/COVID-19 and both mine operator actions and MSHA actions in response. This information provides practices for operators and miners to minimize the spread of Coronavirus/COVID-19 and actions MSHA is taking to do the same.

What should mine operators and miners do?

- Avoid close contact: Put distance between yourself and other people (about 6 feet). This includes not crowding personnel carriers, hoists and elevators, or other means of transportation at the mine.
- Clean and disinfect: Wipe down equipment and other frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash hands: If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.
- Stay at home if you are sick.

See additional guidance on the CDC's Prevention page <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

What actions is MSHA taking?

Continued on page 8



**International Society of
Explosives Engineers**

President's Message by Alastair Torrance, PhD.

Year 2019 saw ISEE well positioned on sound financial footing and stable membership. The Society had enough managed scholarship funds to allow 34 students to receive scholarships to the value of \$88,000. The Annual Conference in Denver in January 2020 was well supported, with more people attending than previous visits to the mile-high city and with record levels of sponsorship. I think all those who were there gained a lot of benefit from the technical presentations as well as great opportunities to network with experts from throughout the industry. Old friendships were renewed, and new ones forged in the busy 5 days at the end of January.

Then we left and made our way back home, wherever that may be, either just down the road or taking more than 24 hours to make the journey. On the way, there were a few travelers that wore masks in the airports, but we took little notice of them, not really understanding that the world was changing even as we returned to our homes. How things have changed over two short months. I do not know of any country in our industry that has not been impacted by the pandemic that has travelled around the world. This has meant a huge change in the way we do business and interact with people. Parts of the mining industry are relatively unaffected as they are designated as “essential industries”. This means that the science and art of explosives engineering is still required but perhaps in a different format to last year. Keeping a safe distance has gained a whole new meaning.

ISEE's Headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio, is usually staffed by up to 10 people. As mentioned in previous email communications from your Executive Director, all staff are currently working from home, which is the way a lot of us are having to carry out our business. This brings new challenges in terms of how to prepare for the workday effectively and keeping communications at the right level among the staff, members and external individuals. It will also bring great opportunities to look at how we have been doing things and see if there is a smarter, more efficient or effective way to work. Times of crisis are often associated with great inventiveness: we can no longer do things in the old way, so alternate paths are discovered that are often better than the traditional way of doing things.

Continued on page 3



President's Message Continued

All ISEE subcommittees work in this remote fashion, interacting on teleconferences or video conferences on a regular basis to discuss projects, present ideas and to further develop ISEE. Tools are provided that allow them to work well in this manner and the members are getting more comfortable and familiar with this way of doing things. As work slows down due to the pandemic, you may find yourselves with a little more time on your hands. I know all the Chairpersons of ISEE's subcommittees would welcome additional members who are genuinely interested in a particular topic, so I would urge you to take a look at the [below] subcommittee list and see if there is something that grabs your attention. I hope that there is something of interest and that you contact the ISEE staff to find out more about the activities that are going on. Not a lot of additional time is required to be active on one of the subcommittees, often an hour a month, but you can bring your skill and experience to help guide the ISEE over the coming months and years to build a stronger organization.

The changing environment is also being felt acutely by ISEE's Chapters. Significant regional conferences – the Western Canada AGM and Best in the West Annual Conference have had to be postponed. Local Chapter meetings are also suffering, which is leaving a gap in providing educational and training hours to members. The current Level 1 Certificate Program is available online, while the ISEE Staff continue working on developing additional online resources for the Blasters Training Program to further help to fill this gap.

I would welcome all comments and suggestions you may have for ISEE in these interesting times. Please feel free to contact me at president@isee.org and I will respond as fully as I can. This is going to be a challenging year for all of us. Let's take the opportunity to do things differently and learn as we move through the year.

Key ISEE Subcommittees:

Finance, Chapter and Membership, International, Blasters Training and Education, Government Affairs, Public Education/Public Relations, Publications, Conference Advisory, Conference Program, Standards.

ISEE Sections:

Emerging Professionals, Blast Vibration & Seismograph, Drilling, Fragblast

Best Regards,

Alastair Torrance, PhD.

President

International Society of Explosives Engineers

Lead Lines



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2020 Clay Shoot & BBQ

Thursday, October 22, 2020

11:30am - 5:30pm

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Thursday, October 22, 2020

FREE for Members

\$35 for Non-Members

11:30am - 5:30pm

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Deadline to register is Thursday, October 15, 2020

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You can bring your own gun and ammo (7.5-9 lead shot only).

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The event is FREE for Members.

Non-Members will be charged \$35 for a Chapter Membership.

Non-members - please complete the membership form on page 16 and this registration form to sign-up.

Send to:

Eastern PA Chapter I.S.E.E.

Ethan Huff

c/o Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc.

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Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Clay Shoot & BBQ



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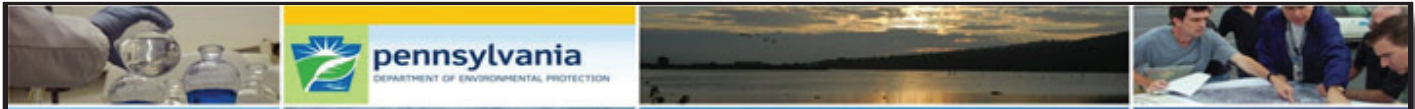
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Letter from The Chief

Dear Eastern PA ISEE Newsletter readers,

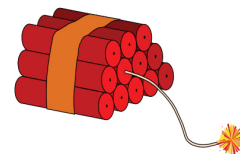
Self-monitoring is the cornerstone of explosives regulation. The explosives industry demonstrates regulatory compliance through providing regulatory agencies with detailed records of blasting which includes detailed blast reports featuring drill logs, seismograph monitoring reports and in most cases videos of blasts. This information can also be used to resolve blasting complaints. Additionally, this information allows evaluation of blast designs which can help the blaster design future blasts on a project. This information is either available electronically or easily converted to electronic availability. During these times of social distancing the safest way, for both the explosives industry and DEP, is for the explosives industry to provide DEP with blast record information electronically through e-mail or other means, upon request from DEP.

Please stay safe and stay healthy,

Richard Lamkie

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MSHA Response to COVID-19 Continued

- MSHA is abiding by the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, which are based on the CDC Interim Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential Coronavirus Disease 2019.
- MSHA will continue to perform its essential functions, including mandatory inspections, serious accident investigations, and investigations of hazard complaints (imminent danger or serious in nature).
- For the pendency of the President's national emergency declaration, MSHA has suspended Educational Field and Small Mine Services visits, as well as special safety and fatality initiatives that normally would gather groups of miners on-site to discuss powered haulage, electrocution, and contractor safety.
- To the extent feasible, inspectors are maintaining distance from miners while performing inspections.
- The Mine Safety and Health Administration will work with mine operators when it comes to the following

Continued on page 12

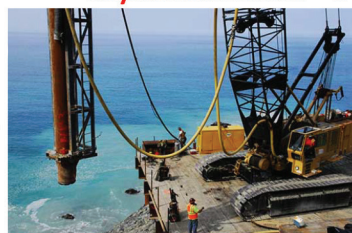


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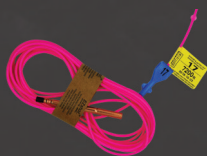
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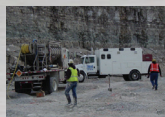
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An aerial photograph of a city, likely San Francisco, with a large, deep crater in the foreground. The crater is filled with debris and dust, suggesting a recent explosion or collapse. A car is visible on the right side of the image, near the edge of the crater. The text "YOU CAN'T MANAGE WHAT YOU DON'T MEASURE." is overlaid on the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

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MSHA Response to COVID-19 Continued

recertifications:

Annual refresher training certification (30 CFR Part 46)

Surface and underground annual refresher training certification (30 CFR Part 48)

Certified person; sampling (30 CFR §§ 70/71/90.202)

Certified person; maintenance and calibration (30 CFR §§ 70/71/90.203)

Exemptions to recertifications will not be granted; however, their due dates will be extended by at least the time the government is operating under the President's emergency declaration.

Please note: This exception does not apply to new miner training. New miners must be trained before beginning work. Once the Emergency Declaration is lifted, mine operators should work with their respective district offices to ensure that all certifications are conducted in a timely manner.

- MSHA supports operators' efforts to minimize the spread of the Coronavirus/COVID-19, including screenings or questionnaires, and will encourage our inspectors to participate on a voluntary basis.
- MSHA is following all protocols for identifying MSHA inspectors or other employees exhibiting symptoms or who have had potential exposure, asking them to quarantine at home, and cleaning the relevant offices following CDC guidelines.
- MSHA recognizes that some mining operations are not running at full capacity and have limited crews working. If a mine operator alerts MSHA to changes in production at a site, MSHA will, to the extent possible, limit the number of inspectors sent to that mine for a regular inspection proportional with the mine's continuing operations.

If you have questions regarding MSHA requirements, including reporting, certifications, or plan submissions, or updates on the status of your operations and staff on-site, please contact the appropriate MSHA District Office (<https://www.msha.gov/about/program-areas/metal-and-nonmetal-mine-safety-and-health>; <https://www.msha.gov/about/program-areas/coal-mine-safety-and-health>).

Many state and local governments have issued emergency orders imposing closure and shelter-in-place restrictions for citizens and businesses. MSHA does not have jurisdiction to enforce or implement these emergency orders. If you have concerns regarding state and local emergency orders or compliance with those emergency orders, please contact the appropriate state or local government office.

To access the Department of Labor's coronavirus resources page, visit <https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus>.

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47th Annual Conference Call for Papers

Abstracts for the 47th Annual Conference on Explosives & Blasting Technique, to be held Feb. 7-10, 2021, at the Caribe Royale in Orlando, Fla., are now being accepted by the International Society of Explosives Engineers.

Papers addressing all explosives and blasting related topics will be considered. Accepted papers will be scheduled for one of the technical sessions or the Blasters Forum, a multimedia poster event with one-on-one interaction between the author and the audience.

Abstracts of approximately 200-400 words are due by May 29, 2020. Please contact us if you do not receive confirmation within two weeks of submitting your abstract. Chapter sponsored abstracts/papers must be submitted by the deadline.

What's new this Year

In previous years, students had separate calls for papers and separate deadlines. To streamline the submission process, this will be the only call for papers this year for both industry professionals and students.

COVID-19 and Deadlines

Because of COVID-19, deadlines throughout the entire paper submission process have already been extended. Check the abstract submission site for all the details. If you would like to submit an abstract, but feel you might not be able to meet the paper deadlines because of a project put on temporary hold, please email us at isee@isee.org.

About the Conference

The Annual Conference on Explosives & Blasting Technique is the largest gathering of its kind involving field blasters, manufacturers of explosives-related products, educators and researchers. The conference provides a forum for the discussion of practical and technical information as well as presentation of the latest discoveries in the commercial explosives industry worldwide. ISEE members and non-members are invited to submit ideas for papers to be presented at the conference.

Presented papers will be published in the proceedings of the conference and at onemine.org, which is home to more than 124,000 articles, technical papers, books in the explosives, mining, minerals and tunneling industries from ISEE, SME, NIOSH, AusIMM, CIM, SAIMM, TMS, IMPC, DFI and IIMP.

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- ☐ **Individual** - Chapter dues are \$35.00 per year.
- ☐ **Deluxe Corporate Membership** - Dues are \$250.00 for up to 10 members plus a 1/2 page ad in the quarterly newsletter (\$180 value). Please list name, email address and ISEE status for all members.
- ☐ **Corporate Membership** - Dues are \$150.00 for up to 5 members plus a business card ad in the quarterly newsletter (\$60 value). Please list name, email address and ISEE status for all members.

I agree to comply with the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of the Chapter.

Signature of Applicant

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