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

Volume 28 Number 1

Winter 2021

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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Save The Date

Virtual Joint Chapter Meeting

The Eastern PA Chapter, Mid Atlantic Chapter and Penn State Student ISEE and SME Chapters are excited to host a virtual joint meeting

Wednesday, April 14th at 6pm

The meeting will include Chapter updates and announcements followed by guest presentations

A zoom link will be emailed to all members closer to the meeting date

Stay tuned for more information!

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Letter from The President

Dear Members,

After a successful November Joint Chapter meeting, we are excited to host another virtual meeting with the Penn State University ISEE Student Chapter. Mark your calendars for April 14th at 6pm. Details about speakers will be announced as we get closer to the meeting date.

Also, the International Society of Explosives Engineers has something exciting planned for our industry! They are hosting a free public webinar series designed to be fun, entertaining and informational. The webinars will touch on different aspects of the explosives business and what a day looks like for those in occupations related to the industry. The webinars will take place at 8pm every Tuesday in March. You can register at www.isee.org.

In October we had our most successful Clay Shoot & BBQ with over 50 attendees. Please check out photos from this event on page 6 & 7. Save the Date for our 5th annual Clay Shoot & BBQ for Thursday, October 28th.

Best regards,

Scott

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US Department of Labor Issues Stronger Workplace Guidance on Coronavirus

The U.S. Department of Labor announced that its Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued stronger worker safety guidance to help employers and workers implement a coronavirus protection program and better identify risks which could lead to exposure and contraction.

"Protecting Workers: Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace"

provides updated guidance and recommendations, and outlines existing safety and health standards. OSHA is providing the recommendations to assist employers in providing a safe and healthful workplace.

Implementing a coronavirus protection program is the most effective way to reduce the spread of the virus. The guidance announced today recommends several essential elements in a prevention program:

- * Conduct a hazard assessment.
- * Identify control measures to limit the spread of the virus.
- * Adopt policies for employee absences that don't punish workers as a way to encourage potentially infected workers to remain home.
- * Ensure that coronavirus policies and procedures are communicated to both English and non-English speaking workers.
- * Implement protections from retaliation for workers who raise coronavirus-related concerns.

"OSHA is updating its guidance to reduce the risk of transmission of the coronavirus and improve worker protections so businesses can operate safely and employees can stay safe and working," said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Jim Frederick.

The guidance details key measures for limiting coronavirus's spread, including ensuring infected or potentially infected people are not in the workplace, implementing and following physical distancing protocols and using surgical masks or cloth face coverings. It also provides guidance on use of personal protective equipment, improving ventilation, good hygiene and routine cleaning.

This guidance is not a standard or regulation, and it creates no new legal obligations. It contains recommendations as well as descriptions of existing mandatory safety and health standards. The recommendations are advisory in nature, informational in content and are intended to assist employers in recognizing and abating hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm as part of their obligation to provide a safe and healthful workplace.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to help ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance.



Letter from The Chief

Dear Eastern PA ISEE Newsletter readers,

I have seen a steady improvement in the quality and content of blast records over the past two plus decades as an explosives regulator. Many of today's records meet the regulatory standard "to provide the Department with sufficient information to reconstruct the conditions and events surrounding a blast." The list of minimum blast record requirements were expanded with the June 2018 regulation change to include some things that many explosives companies were already including in their records such as blasting agent densities, more detailed locational information, information detailing the condition of the area surrounding the blast site and detailed drill logs. The requirement for providing detailed information on how each hole is loaded has been a requirement since July 2001 but was included in the minimum requirements listed in §211.133(a) for the June 2018 regulation change. Although videoing of blasts was not included in the minimum requirements for blast records, a strong argument can be made that videos of blasts in many cases are necessary "to provide the Department with sufficient information to reconstruct the conditions and events surrounding a blast."

The June 2018 regulation change includes that DEP may require a corrective action for violations. This is to ensure that actions are taken to prevent similar violations from occurring again on a project. Due to complete and accurate blast records being available for the investigations of some recent cases where serious violations have occurred the permittees and/ or the blasting contractors and DEP have been able to determine what caused the violations and ensure that subsequent blasts on those projects did not result in violations of the regulations.

So please take the time to have complete, accurate and compliant blast records which include videos of the blasts. They have great value in determining what caused serious violations but just as importantly they can help you avoid serious violations on future blasts. They give you the ability to thoroughly examine blast performance versus blast design which can give you valuable insight for future blast designs.

Please stay safe and stay healthy,

Richard Lamkie

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Prizes Awarded!

Gun Raffle!

2021 Clay Shoot & BBQ

Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:30am - 5:30pm Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays 2750 Limestone St., Coplay, PA

The event is FREE for Members or \$35 for Non-Members

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Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Clay Shoot & BBQ

On October 22, 2020 The Eastern PA Chapter ISEE hosted the 4th Annual Clay Shoot & BBQ at the Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays (LVSC) facility in Allentown, PA. It was a great day to shoot something–all while following COVID-19 restrictions and maintaining social distancing. The LVSC facility is perfect for our event as it is built on an old quarry site, and utilizes the ponds and the old limestone structures for the challenging course. There were 48 shooters and a total of 51 attendees at the event.

Special Thanks to our Sponsors: Austin Powder; BBQ Sponsor, Maxam; Ammo Sponsor, and



First place winner was, top row (left to right) Rob Tourney from Lehigh Hanson, second place winner was Frank Moll from Keystone Drill Services, and third place winner was Jerry Brumbaugh from Wampum Hardware. The 1st Lewis class winner was, bottom row (left to right) Jonathan Ferdinand from Vibra-Tech, 2nd Lewis class winner was Tim O'Quinn from Sandvik, and 3rd Lewis class winner was Tom Klock, Retired.

Rocky Rift Consulting; Gun Raffle Sponsor. Station sponsors include: Blasters Tool & Supply Company, Dimension Supply, Inc., Dyno Nobel, East West Drilling, Inc., EPIROC, Gill Rock Drill Company, Independent Explosives, Instantel, International Society of Explosives Engineers, J.M. Miller, Inc., KEMEK, LLC, Keystone Drill Services, Inc., Maurer & Scott, Nobel Insurance Services, Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc., REICHdrill LLC, Sandvik, Sauls Seismic, LLC, Stemlock, Inc., Texas AGA, a division of Marsh USA, Inc., Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc., Wampum Hardware Company.



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Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Clay Shoot & BBQ







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Chapter Sponsors Two Students to Attend ISEE Webinars

The Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter ISEE sponsored two Penn State University students from the Mining Engineering Program to participate in the International Society of Explosives Engineers Webinar Series that took place in November 2020. Michael Campion and Bryan Drager were the students selected to participate.

"It was a great experience to hear about blasting practices from professionals in the industry. I enjoyed listening to Mark Curry's presentation about how technology is changing the way bulk explosives are being used. Also, it was a privilege to learn from John Floyd of Blast Dynamics. His global experience was prevalent in his presentation about efficient blasting techniques," said Michael Campion, a Senior Mining Engineering major. "These types of webinars hosted by ISEE make it easy to further my education outside of university studies."





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ISEE Blasters Training Webinar Series Now Available On-Demand!

Blasters Training Webinar Series - Part 1

Approximately 4 hours - Cost \$100

- 1-1 Fundamentals of Blast Design by Joe Nawrocki, Senior Technical Manager, Dyno Nobel *Presentation sponsored by Tradestar*
- 1-2 Importance of Communication Between Drillers and Blasters by Seth Burns, ISG Manager, Nelson Brothers Presentation sponsored by Montabert
- 1-3 Explosive Products: Properties and Application by Alastair Torrance, Principal, Kilmorie Consulting Pty Ltd *Presentation sponsored by O-Pitblast*
- 1-4 Preventing Flyrock Through Good Blast Design and Delay Timing by Richard O'Meara, US Technical Services Director, Orica Presentation sponsored by Lubrizol

Blasters Training Webinar Series - Part 2

Approximately 4 hours - Cost \$100

- 2-1 Close In Construction Blasting by Mike Koehler, President, B.E. Consultants, Inc.
- 2-2 Blaster's Math by Bill Necker, Manager of Technical Services, Maurer & Scott Presentation sponsored by GeoSonics/Vibra-Tech
- 2-3 Legal Advantages of Good Blast Reports/Recordkeeping by Kelly Ratliff and Ralph Burnham, Attorneys, Reminger Co., LPA *Presentation sponsored by JM Miller, Inc.*
- 2-4 Vibration Level One+ by Jeff Taylor, President, Sauls Seismic, LLC

On-Demand Training Details

Each four-hour webinar is valid for one certificate of completion. If you have previously taken the course and received a certificate, you will not earn another one by taking the quiz again. If this webinar is being taken for retraining credit hours, a 20-question quiz must be completed after watching the webinar in its entirety. Users who score 75 percent or higher, and who submit a signed affidavit stating the entire webinar was watched, will receive a certificate of completion. Register online at **www.isee.org.**

Several states have approved to accept this training including: Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming. Check ISEE's website for an up-to-date list of states.

Blasters Training Webinar Series - Part 3

Approximately 4 hours - Cost \$100

- 3-1 Geology Level One+ by Kurt Oakes, Senior Manager - Drill & Blast, Peabody Energy *Presentation sponsored by Dyno Nobel*
- 3-2 Flyrock by Jay Elkin, Wampum Hardware Presentation sponsored by Tread Corporation
- 3-3 Bulk Explosives Equipment and Use by Mark Curry, Technical Services Manager, Orica Presentation sponsored by O-Pitblast
- 3-4 Blasting Safety Level One+ by Maggie Hettinger, Senior Technical Engineer, BME USA

Blasters Training Webinar Series - Part 4

Approximately 4 hours - Cost \$100

- 4-1 Public Relations by Josh Hoffman, Director of Technical Services, IME
- 4-2 Preventing Block Movement/Misfires Through Good Blast Design and Delay Timing by Frank Lucca, President, Terra Dinamica LLC
- 4-3 Loading Bulk Blasting Agents and Quality Control on the Bench by Frank Sames, Technical Manager, Austin Powder Company Presentation sponsored by Austin Powder Company
- 4-4 Transportation of Explosives by Matt Spina, State Trooper, CT State Police



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Chapter Treasurer Position Available A great way to get involved in the committee!

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It's Membership Renewal Time!

Membership in the Eastern PA Chapter of the ISEE keeps you connected to news and events in the drilling, blasting and seismic fields. Members receive benefits such as quarterly newsletters, training opportunities, regulatory and safety updates as well as informational/social events. A yearly membership costs only \$35.

To become a member or renew your membership, please complete the form featured on page 18. You can also find the membership form online.

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Your corporate membership includes 5 or up to 10 memberships along with free advertising in the quarterly newsletter. See page 18 for details.

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Chapters Host a Joint ZOOM Meeting

The Penn State Student ISEE and SME Chapters hosted a joint ZOOM meeting with the Eastern PA Chapter and the Mid Atlantic Chapter on November 12, 2020. In attendance were 14 students, 3 faculty, and 11 Chapter members. The meeting was run by Student Chapter President, Michael Campion.

After some brief student announcements, Dave Harrison, Co-Owner/ CEO of Terra-Mechanics, Inc. presented, "A Case Study - Charleroi Lock & Dam - Old River Wall Explosive Demolition Phase 2". His presentation was followed by Joey Accardo, Technical Manager Surface Drilling Equipment at EPIROC USA presenting, "Applied Technological Advances in Drilling". These presentations were recorded to share with students not able to attend. After a question and answer period, everyone in attendance was asked to introduce themselves.



Danny Ray Leach of the Eastern PA Chapter made a few announcements promoting the Chapter's support for 2 students to attend the ISEE Webinar series this year. He also announced

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Jana Kostantewicz ext 51748 jkostantewicz@aga-us.com that the PA Drilling and Blasting Conference planning committee is meeting to discuss the November 18 & 19, 2021 conference.

Professor Mohammad Rezaee expressed thanks for the support of the Chapters and looks forward to planning another joint meeting in the spring. The student Chapter is always looking for guest speakers for their meetings and available internship opportunities.



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