



Lead Lines



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

Volume 30 Number 1

Winter 2023

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 25, 2023

Copperhead Grille
5737 Route 378
Bethlehem, Pa 18015

5:30 - 8:00pm

Guest Speaker

Christopher D Catalano
Chief, Explosives and Safety Section
Department of Environmental Protection

The cost is \$30.00 per person.

Please RSVP to Dan Leach
717.574.4024 or danleach58@gmail.com

Lead Lines



Letter from The President

Dear Members,

At the 49th Annual ISEE Conference in San Antonio, Texas, the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter was presented with the coveted Chapter Membership Award and the Chapter Communications Award. Chapter member, Bill Necker was honored with the Blaster's Leadership Award.

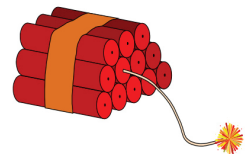
We are excited to announce that we have a full line up of upcoming events for our membership starting with a meeting on May 25th from 5-7pm. Our guest speaker will be Christopher D Catalano, Chief of Explosives and Safety Section at the Department of Environmental Protection. He will give a presentation titled, "Building Better Permits". We will also be voting on Chapter leadership at this meeting. If you or someone in your organization is interested in getting involved, please contact me. On Thursday, June 22nd we will hold a day-long blasters training. On August 3rd we will host a family-friendly night at the Iron Pigs Baseball Game. In the Fall, we will have the 7th Annual Clay Shoot and BBQ on Friday, November 3rd and later that month will be the PA Drilling and Blasting Conference in State College, PA on November 16-17th. As these events are finalized, we will be communicating details and registration information to our membership.

Best regards,

Scott

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Safety Alert

Highwall Safety

Since CY 2012, falling rocks and materials from hazardous highwalls have resulted in 9 mining fatalities and 27 serious injuries.



A miner was fatally injured at a surface coal mine while operating a front-end loader to remove shot rock near the base of a 63 ft. highwall.



A miner was severely injured while working near the base of an approximate 65 ft. highwall. The miner was struck by loose, fractured and overhanging rocks.

Best Practices

- **Develop and follow a plan** for the safe control of all highwalls where miners work and travel in close proximity to the highwall.
- **Train miners to recognize highwall hazards.**
- **Conduct highwall examinations** and assure hazards (loose rocks, overhangs, trees, etc.) are taken down or supported prior to work or travel near the highwall. Examine more frequently after rain, freezing and thawing.
- **Scale highwalls** to eliminate hazards, e.g. loose rocks or overhangs. Perform scaling from a position that will not expose miners to injury. Until hazards are corrected, place warning signs or barricades to prevent entry.
- **Restrict highwall height** to allow available equipment to safely scale the highwall. If benching is necessary, provide adequate bench width based on the type of equipment used for routine clearing or scaling operations.
- **Develop blasting plans** and use proper blasting techniques. Examine highwalls after blasting.
- **Remove trees, vegetation, and unconsolidated material** a safe distance from the top edge of highwalls.
- **Never park equipment, perform maintenance or store materials beneath highwalls.**
- **Use diversion ditches or slope the ground** so that surface runoff drains away from highwalls.

Report accidents and hazardous conditions: 1-800-746-1553



Necker Awarded Blaster's Leadership Award

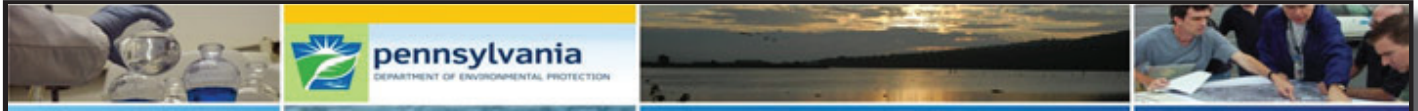
The ISEE's Blaster's Leadership Award was presented to Bill Necker at the annual conference in February. The Blaster's Leadership Award is presented to those who have given an extraordinary amount of their time and talents to helping fellow blasters in the field. Bill began his career in the explosives industry at The Ensign-Bickford - Aerospace Division where his first job was manufacturing practice rounds for shoulder-fired rockets. In the mid-1980s, he worked in product development for Ensign-Bickford's, Blasting Products Division. Bill holds four patents for explosive devices and was instrumental in the development of the first-generation, EZ Det, non-electric detonator. Field work for Bill began in the late 1980's and over the years, he has held a variety of positions in sales, operations and technical services for both Ensign-Bickford and Dyno Nobel. From 1989 to 1995 Bill lived in Portland, OR and worked extensively with explosive distributors and blasters throughout the Pacific Northwest & Alaska. In 1995 he moved to Allentown, PA where he has provided technical support for many of the region's distributors and blasters for the last 27 years. In 2006 Bill managed Dyno Nobel's Sales & Service Site, in Olin, NC and in 2015 he went to work for Maurer & Scott, an explosives distributor based in Coopersburg, PA. Bill is currently the Manager of Technical Services where he provides support for Maurer & Scott's customers and 50+ licensed blasters working in Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Maryland. Bill is recognized for his blaster training and has often participated at the Penn State Blaster's Conference and other organizations, providing continuing education.



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Letter from The Chief

Dear Eastern PA ISEE Newsletter readers,

Something I find quite fascinating is how stories and legends are handed down throughout generations, often with significant similarities. But, history is not always accurate. From popular myths and legends to half-truths and propagandas, our past has been told and retold so many times the facts can sometimes get lost.¹ Such can even be the case in industry among professionals. Codes and standards are discussed time and again in the field, and when a small misconception becomes a part of the conversation, it can quickly become a nonfactual “fact” relied upon as the basis for making operational decisions. Unfortunately, those decisions, based on an error in the telling and re-telling of what the regulations actually say, can lead to unintentional violations.

Ironically, this morning as I was preparing to write this article I received a call from one of our clients regarding one of the most prominent Pennsylvania blasting regulation misconceptions —the requirements for a property owned by a mine operator, but leased to someone who is not affiliated with the mining operation. For years I have heard it said, “Oh, the mine owns that house, we don’t have to monitor there.” And for years I have seen mine operators buy up properties so that they would not have to worry about monitoring at those locations. Let’s look at what the regulations actually say about this:

In 25 Pa. Code § 211.151(c), it says in part, “The scaled distance and allowable particle velocity **does not apply** at a building or other structure owned or leased by the permittee or its customer”. In (d) it says, “Blasts shall be designed and conducted to control airblast so that it does not exceed 133 dBL at any building or other structure designated by the Department unless the building is owned or leased by the permittee or its customer.”

It seems pretty slam-dunk that if a permittee owns a structure, they don’t have to worry about monitoring requirements. Alas, regulations and compliance are rarely that simple. For mining operations, one must also reference the surface mining requirements to get the whole picture. For non-coal surface mines one would refer to § 77.564(f), where it says, “Airblasts shall be controlled so that they do not exceed 133 dBL at a dwelling, public building, school, church or commercial or institutional structure, unless the structure is owned by the person who conducts the surface mining activities **and is not leased to another person**. The lessee may sign a waiver relieving the operator from meeting the airblast limitations of this subsection.”

The Chapter 87 Surface Coal regulations include provisions requiring compliance with both vibration and airblast limits even for buildings that are located on the permit area, if they are leased to another party. For example, if XYZ Mine uses Acme Tire Service for their truck tire needs, and they lease one of the buildings on the mine property to the tire company, both the operator and Acme Tire would have to agree to waive (in writing) the vibration and airblast limitations.

Continued on page 12



Chapter Awarded at ISEE Conference

Nearly 1,600 individuals attend the 49th Annual ISEE Conference in San Antonio, Texas. The Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter was represented at the Chapter Workshop Meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2023 by Danny Ray Leach and Douglas Rudenko. The Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter was awarded the Chapter Membership Award and the Chapter Communications Award.



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Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Clay Shoot & BBQ

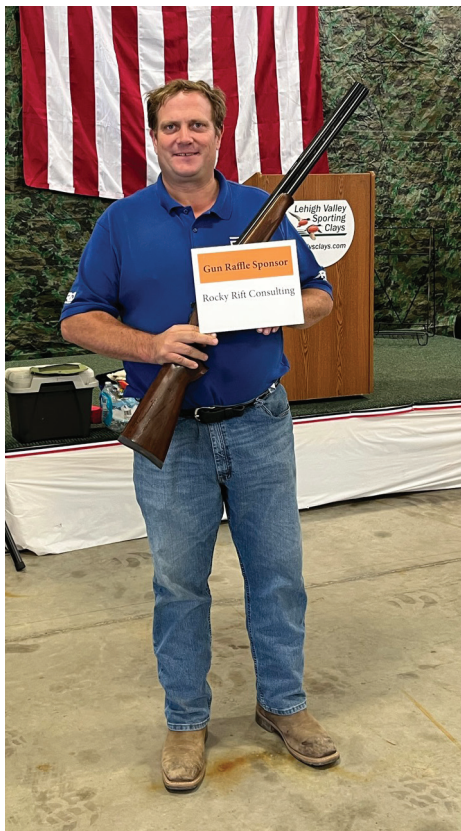
On November 4, 2022, the Eastern PA Chapter hosted the 6th Annual Clay Shoot and BBQ at Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays (LVSC) in Allentown, PA. The LVSC facility is a perfect venue since it is built on an old quarry site that utilizes ponds and the old limestone structures for the challenging course. There were 54 attendees and 47 shooters that participated in the event.

First place winner was Phil Gosnell from New Enterprise Stone & Lime, Co., Inc.; second place winner was Kevin Younkin from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.; and third place winner was Dan Martin from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.



The Class A Lewis class winner was Rodney Schweizer from EPIROC, the Class B Lewis class winner was Jamie Bollinger from ORICA USA, and the Class C Lewis class winner was Scott Mueller, BlueStone, Inc.

The shotgun raffle winner was Michael Hoover, East West Drilling.



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Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Clay Shoot & BBQ



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Always Stay Out of the Line of (Electrical) Fire

Three Miners Electrocuted in Ten Days

On January 27, 2023, two truck drivers were electrocuted after an overhead power line came in contact with their trucks. They exited the cabs of their trucks and came in contact with electrical energy.

On February 6, 2023, a haul truck driver raised the truck bed into an overhead power line. The driver exited the truck to extinguish a fire on the truck's tire and was electrocuted when he tried to reenter the truck.



Best Practices

- Do not stage, park or position trucks, cranes, or other equipment under overhead power lines.
- Post warning signs at all approaches to overhead power lines; install barricades where necessary.
- Establish safe approaches and create safe zones for raising and lowering truck beds, booms, and masts.
- **If your truck, boom, or mast contacts an overhead power line:**
 - Remain inside the vehicle
 - Call emergency response personnel
 - Inform others to stay away
 - Exit the truck only if it is on fire. To exit, jump from the truck landing with both feet together. Do not touch the truck and ground at the same time. Then, shuffle both feet as close as possible for at least 30 feet as you move away from the truck.

Report accidents and hazardous conditions: 1-800-746-1553

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Visit our
Chapter Website
<https://www.easternpaisee.com/>



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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, and a car is visible on the rim. The city is visible in the background, with hills and buildings.

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Letter from the Chief Continued

It's easy for simple misconceptions to become common "factual" knowledge even when it isn't. DEP is dedicated in part to assisting our clients with understanding the scope and applicability of what the regulations actually say. Yes, sometimes we have to cite violations, but our goal is really to help you get it right. When you're not sure about something, reach out to the Department for assistance. Kudos to the client who called me this morning to inquire on this very subject!

Be well, be safe, and have a blast,

Chris Catalano

References

1. Illsley, C.L. (August, 3, 2020). 5 Big Historical Misconceptions. WorldAtlas.

<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/10-of-the-biggest-misconceptions-made-in-history.html#:~:text=5%20Big%20Historical%20Misconceptions%201%201.%20Christ%27s%20Birth,Roman%20Vomitoriums%20...%205%205.%20Fiddling%20Nero%20>



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Sara Bustard Named ISEE Membership Director

Sara Bustard, CAE was announced as the International Society of Explosives Engineers Membership Director.

Sara has 15 years of experience working for associations. She has worked with memberships at small local non-profits, state associations, and international societies. She has successfully worked on member recruitment and retention, creating member programs, chapter relations, student member engagement, maintaining relationships, and more.

Sara was a member of ASAE's Membership Professionals Advisory Council and chaired the PASAE (Pennsylvania ASAE) Membership Committee both for three years. She was also selected to participate in the 2019 NextGen Association Summit. She now sits on the PASAE Foundation Board of Directors.

Please welcome Sara Bustard to her new role.



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Rachel Bauer Awarded SEE Education Foundation Scholarship

Rachel Bauer of St. Marys, Pennsylvania was awarded the SEE Education Foundation Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 for the 2022-2023 academic year. Rachel is a 2nd year PhD student studying Explosives Engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology. She started the Missouri S&T grad student mucking team and competed in the competition in Rolla, MO at Missouri University of Science and Technology.



“A scholarship from ISEE allowed me to travel to the ISEE conference and make new connections and network with industry representatives,” said Rachel. “It means that I can pursue my degree in Explosives stress free and that I can continue working towards my goal of becoming a leader in the explosives industry.”



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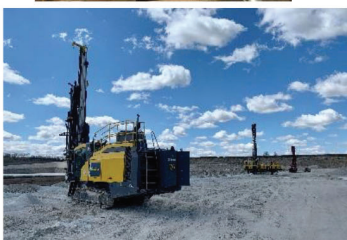
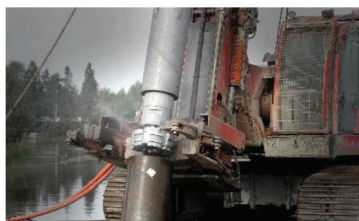
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Save the Date!

The Twentieth Pennsylvania Drilling and Blasting Conference



November 16-17, 2023

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About the Conference

This conference attracts a varied and impressive list of professionals, such as underground and surface drillers and blasters, engineers, safety personnel, construction professionals, suppliers, and regulatory personnel. The previous conference brought together 350 practitioners and 50 exhibitors to discover new approaches related to the industry.

For more information, please visit the conference website at <https://blasting.outreach.psu.edu/>.

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7th Annual Clay Shoot & BBQ

Thursday, November 3, 2023

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Adi Tobias joins ISEE as Marketing and Social Media Coordinator

Adi Tobias joined ISEE as the new Marketing and Social Media Coordinator working to ensure the growth and continued success of the ISEE. Adi is a self-driven and passionate social media marketer with years of professional experience helping businesses build and manage effective social media strategies. Adi graduated from Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts and has worked as a social media manager, digital marketing specialist, and independent contractor. As a private consultant, Adi worked with a variety of companies in the health and wellness industry to raise brand awareness, create social media strategies that work and increase lead generation.

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SEE Education Foundation Scholarship Now Open

The Society of Explosives Engineers (SEE) Education Foundation has opened the 2023 application process for the SEE Scholarship program. In 2023, the SEE is making up to \$90,000 USD available in scholarships to students pursuing degrees related to the explosives industry.

The SEE Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization created in 1996 to serve the long-term education interests of the explosives industry through the development of education and training materials, championing the inclusion of explosives instruction in engineering curricula and awarding scholarships to eligible students.

The scholarship acceptance period is February 28 to May 15, 2023.

To be eligible, students must be, or plan to be, pursuing a technical, undergraduate, graduate or doctorate degree in a field related to the commercial explosives industries. Students will be assessed on academic and professional achievements, industry goals, a personal challenges narrative and a brief statement of financial need.

The SEE Foundation Scholarship Committee awards scholarships ranging from \$500 USD to a top award in excess of \$5,000 USD to well-qualified students. Scholarships are open to students from any country and attending any university provided it has a degree program in a field related to the commercial explosives industries. Interested students can find more information at <https://isee.org/students>.

Completed applications must be emailed to scholarship@isee.org. The deadline to submit your completed application is 11:59 p.m. May 15, 2023, US Eastern Time.



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2023 NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR MEMBER RENEWAL FORM

Name (Please Print)_____ Date_____

Company Name_____

Mailing Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Home Phone_____ Work Phone_____

Email Address_____

List Blaster Licenses Held_____ Are you a member of the I.S.E.E.?_____

Please select your membership type:

- ☐ **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

Payment can be made by credit card or check. Please select your payment option.

- ☐ Credit Card - Visit the Chapter website to pay online (<http://www.easternpaisee.com/membership/>) or contact Ethan Huff to pay over the phone.
- ☐ Check - Please make checks payable to **Eastern PA Chapter I.S.E.E.**

Send to: Ethan Huff
c/o Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc.
109 East First Street
Hazleton, PA 18201
ethanh@vibratechinc.com



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