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

Volume 31 Number 2

Spring 2024

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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2024 Blasters' Training

Thursday, June 20, 2024

Blair County Convention Center 1 Convention Center Drive, Altoona, PA 16602

8:00am - 5:00pm

(Registration begins at 7:00am)

Registration includes the training, lunch and two breaks
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Early Bird Pricing by June 6th	Regular Pricing on June 7th	Membership Type
\$150	\$190	Eastern PA Chapter Members
\$185	\$225	Non-Members (registration includes 2024 Eastern PA Chapter Membership)

This training has been approved by the Pennsylvania DEP to satisfy the 8-hour continuing education credits required for license renewal.

To register and sponsor the training, please visit

http://www.easternpaisee.com/attendee-registration/

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Our Chapter Mission Statement

Maintain and promote the highest competency standards, safety, and education for drilling, blasting, seismology and explosives engineer professionals.

Letter from The President

Dear Members,

In need of credit hours for your blasters licence or just need some continuing education? The Eastern PA Chapter along with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter will host a Blasters' Training on Thursday, June 20th at the Blair County Convention Center. We have a great line up of confirmed speakers (see page 3). Register by June 6 to take advantage of our early bird pricing. In addition to training we will also be raffling off some great prizes. A big thank you to all of our event sponsors:

Austin Powder Company Dimension Supply, Inc. East West Drilling, Inc. EPIROC USA Gill Rock Drill Company, Inc. Maurer & Scott Mincon, Inc. MTI Group Orica USA Terra-Mechanics, Inc. Wampum Hardware Co.

We will host a member appreciation event at the Iron Pigs Baseball Game on Thursday, August 8 at the Coca- Cola Park in Allentown, PA. This event is family friendly and members are encouraged to bring their family. Please RSVP early to reserve your spot!

Finally, membership renewals were sent out last week for the 2024 year. We ask all members to renew when your invoice is received so we can stay on track with our new renewal time line. We appreciate your continued support!

Best regards,

Danny Ray Leach

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2024 Blasters Training Set for June 20th

The Eastern Pennsylvania & Mid-Atlantic ISEE Chapters will host a 2024 Blasters' Training on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at the Blair County Convention Center, located at One Convention Center Drive, Altoona, PA.

Registration begins at 7:00am and the training will run from 8:00am – 5:00pm. Registration includes the training, lunch and two breaks.

Our confirmed speakers include:

- * Chris Catalano Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- * Erika A. Dominick Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc.
- * Tom Hairhoger Austin Powder Company
- * Benny Staudt Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc.
- * Sandy Tavelli Dyno Nobel
- * Evan Thibaud Pneu Wave Consulting Inc.

Register Today! Early Bird Pricing (Now until June 6) \$150 for Eastern PA Chapter Members \$185 for Non-Members (registration includes 2024 Eastern PA Chapter Membership)

Registration after June 6th \$190 for Eastern PA Chapter Members \$225 for Non-Members (registration includes 2024 Eastern PA Chapter Membership)

This training has been approved by the Pennsylvania DEP to satisfy the 8-hour continuing education credits required for license renewal.



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Member Appreciation Baseball Game!

Thursday, August 8, 2024

Coca-Cola Park PPL Picnic Patio 7:05pm

On Thursday, August 8th the Eastern PA Chapter will host a member appreciation event during the Iron Pigs Baseball Game. The game is free for members and their family to attend.

"We wanted to host an event to thank all of our members for their continued support throughout the past year, said Danny Ray Leach, Chapter President. "What a better way than to invite the whole family to a ball game!"

The event is free for members, but you must register early to guarentee seats in the picnic patio. Please RSVP, including the number of tickets needed, to Danny Ray Leach at danleach58@gmail.com.

Your ticket includes entrance to the game, a seat and access to the picnic patio buffet. Gates open at 5:45pm and the game begins at 7:05pm. Coca- Cola Park is located at 1050 Iron Pigs Way, Allentown, PA. MarshMcLennan Agency



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MSHA



Mine Safety and Health Administration

Respirable Crystalline Silica

Final Rule

Occupational exposures to respirable crystalline silica (also known as silica dust or quartz dust) cause adverse health effects, including silicosis (acute silicosis, accelerated silicosis, simple chronic silicosis, progressive massive fibrosis), nonmalignant respiratory diseases (e.g., emphysema and chronic bronchitis), lung cancer, and kidney disease. Each of these effects is chronic, irreversible, and potentially disabling or fatal.

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Joint Chapter Meeting Held in April

The Penn State Student Chapter ISEE hosted a joint dinner/meeting with the Eastern Pa Chapter ISEE on April 10, 2024. The meeting was held on campus at the Hosler Building, Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering. In attendance were 10 students, 4 faculty members, and 5 Eastern Chapter members, either in person or via zoom.

The guest speaker was Christopher D Catalano, Chief of Explosives and Safety Section, PA Department of Environmental Protection. Chris spoke on, "Academics in Blasting: Value and Balance". He touched on his own life



experience coming up through the ranks in a variety of job experiences and now how he is still working on his own continuing education and degree. Chris discussed how much the explosives and blasting industry has advanced and how investigating blasting claims has also advanced.



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Silica Continued

On April 18, 2024, MSHA issued its final rule, Lowering Miners' Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and Improving Respiratory Protection, to reduce miner exposures to respirable crystalline silica and improve respiratory protection for all airborne hazards. The final rule:

- Lowers the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for respirable crystalline silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air (μg/m3) for a full shift, calculated as an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA) for all miners;
- Establishes an action level for respirable crystalline silica at 25 μ g/m3 for a full shift, calculated as an 8-hour TWA for all miners;
- Includes uniform requirements for controlling and monitoring exposures to respirable crystalline silica at coal and metal and nonmetal (MNM) mines;
- Includes medical surveillance requirements for MNM mines, modeled on the existing medical surveillance requirements for coal mines; and
- Updates existing respiratory protection requirements by incorporating by reference a voluntary consensus standard by the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) that reflects the latest advances in respiratory protection technologies and practices ASTM F3387-19 Standard Practice for Respiratory Protection.

The final rule took effect on June 17, 2024. Coal mine operators have 12 months to come into compliance with the final rule's requirements while MNM mine operators have 24 months to come into compliance (including medical surveillance).

- Final Rule as published in the Federal Register on April 18, 2024.
- Final Rule on public inspection posted by Federal Register on April 16, 2024.



YOU GAN'T WANAGE WHAT YOU DON'T MEASURE.

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GeoSonics/Vibra-Tech provides expert monitoring and consulting services to help mitigate risk. Our Re:mote Monitoring Technology continuously collects and posts to a customized website, while keeping personnel notified through email and text alerts, so your data is always at your fingertips.

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Safe Driving in Work Zones

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Work zones are a common sight on the nation's roadways at this time of year. While beneficial in the long run, road construction presents a different and sometimes challenging environment for drivers—even professional ones—to navigate. Here are some tips to keep in mind when driving through work zones:

<u>Stay alert and focused.</u> Situations can change rapidly in work zones. Keep your eyes moving, and watch for detours, changing traffic patterns, and other vehicles that slow, stop or switch lanes suddenly. Use extra caution in conditions of low visibility, congestion or inclement weather. Pay close attention to the movements of road crew personnel, and be prepared to stop. Remember that work zones extend from the first roadside marker to the "End Road Work" sign. Just because you don't see workers immediately after you see a warning sign doesn't mean they're not there.

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Work Zone Continued

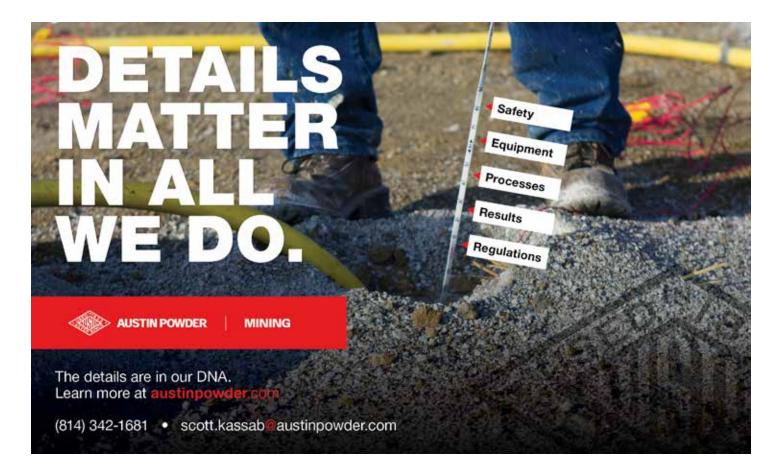
<u>Obey the signs</u>. Read and follow warning and directional signs; they are there to help you and other drivers move safely through the work zone. Also, be sure to comply with the instructions of road crew flaggers, who are often used to stop and direct traffic.

<u>Slow down.</u> Stay at or below the posted work zone speed limit, adjusting your speed to match conditions. Don't resume normal speed until you see signs indicating a higher speed limit. Keep in mind that a construction zone speed limit applies regardless of the presence of workers, and speeding in work zones can result in larger than normal fines.

<u>Merge gently.</u> Signal your intentions and move into the correct lane as soon as signs direct you to do so. If you're already in the open travel lane, be considerate and allow other drivers to merge in early. If traffic merges into fewer lanes once you're in the zone, use caution and courtesy to reduce the chance of a sideswipe. Be alert to motorists racing to get ahead of you in merge areas.

<u>Allow plenty of room.</u> Rear-end crashes are extremely common in work zones. Maintain a safe following distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you. Take advantage of your vehicle's height to help anticipate braking situations. Leave adequate room between your vehicle and traffic barriers, construction equipment and crews.

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Work Zone Continued

<u>Watch road conditions.</u> The pavement may be narrow, rough, uneven or drop off, and travel lanes may shift or curve in unexpected patterns. Slow down to help maintain control. If there is a motorcyclist or bicyclist nearby, exercise extreme caution as pavement surface elevation changes often pose a hazard to riders.

<u>Know before you go.</u> Get an update on traffic and construction issues before you travel. Expect delays and allow extra time to reach your destination. Use alternate routes if available. Remember that line painting, pothole repair and landscaping can create delays as well, so plan accordingly.

<u>Keep your cool.</u> Delays from road construction can be frustrating, but they're also temporary. Stay calm, be patient, and don't allow the actions of other motorists influence the way you drive.

As a driver of a large vehicle, you're at a greater risk of having a serious accident in a work zone. It's up to you to SLOW DOWN, STAY ALERT and KEEP SPACE AROUND YOUR VEHICLE to get through construction zones safely and professionally.



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MSHA



Mine Safety and Health Administration

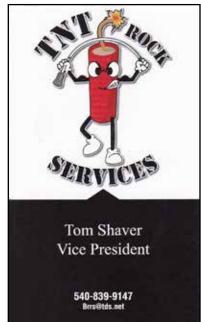
Final Rule: Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment

MSHA's final rule requires mine operators to have written safety programs for surface mobile equipment (excluding belt conveyors) at surface mines and surface areas of underground mines.

The safety programs must include input from miners and their representatives and identify hazards and risks. District managers will discuss compliance assistance during stakeholder meetings in each district beginning in January 2024.

In recent years, powered haulage equipment and machinery have been leading causes of serious and fatal mine accidents, and this final rule is a key part of MSHA's overall effort to improve safety in equipment use. This year the mining industry has experienced 40 mining fatalities, including 16 classified as machinery and 10 classified as powered haulage fatalities.

Other MSHA initiatives to combat the number of mining accidents, injuries, and fatalities in machinery, powered haulage equipment and other areas include safety and health alerts, the "Take Time, Save Lives" Campaign, Powered Haulage Equipment Guidance, and an Enhanced Enforcement Program.







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Spring is Membership Renewal Time

Membership renewal invoices were recently emailed.

A yearly membership only costs \$35. And you can save with a Corporate Membership. A corporate membership includes up to 5 members and a free business card advertisement in the quarterly newsletter (\$60 value)- all for \$155. A deluxe corporate membership includes up to 10 members and a 1/2 page advertisement in the quarterly newsletter (\$180 value)- all for \$255.

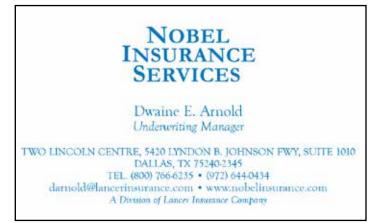
Membership in the Eastern PA Chapter of the ISEE keeps you connected to news and events in the drilling, blasting and seismic fields. Members receive benefits such as quarterly newsletters, training opportunities, regulatory and safety updates as well as informational and social events. Members will also be able to attend the Member Appreciation Baseball Game in August.

You have 3 renewal options:

- 1. Visit the membership renewal form on our website at https://www.easternpaisee.com/membership/
- 2. Complete the membership form on page 17
- 3. Check your inbox for your membership renewal invoice

Our advertising renewal invoices will also be going out shortly.

Thank you for your continued support of the Eastern PA Chapter!





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For Safe Excavation and Complex Projects many people believe that by notifying the One Call System of intended excavation they have completed all of their responsibilities with respect to the locating process. This is not the case. Notifying is only the first step, and there are several other important considerations.

Online Ticket Management is a web service application developed by Pennsylvania 811 to provide excavators and designers a way to view their notifications and facility owners responses.

- View current tickets or five years worth of tickets

- Access to tickets entered online or through the call center
- Search for a specific ticket with an assigned serial number or a series of notifications within a specific date range
- See real time responses from facility owners who were notified on a

current ticket or search the system for stored responses (maximum of 5 years)

Start today by requesting the application from your account



		JUNE 202	24 UPCOMING	EVENTS
DAY	DATE	EVENT NAME, LOCATION AND INFORMATION		
ONLIN	E LEARNING			
TUE	06-04-24	Coordinate PA	Learn how to use the Coordinate PA application to increase project safety and collaboration efforts. PDH 1	
TUE	06-11-24	Online Ticket Management	Learn how to manage tickets, respond to and search for locate requests. PDH 0.5	
TUE	06-25-24	Designer Obligations	Learn your obligations under PA Act 287 when preparing a drawing for construction or demolition work. PDH 1	
ANNU	AL EVENT			
TUE	06-25-24	6 [™] Annual "811" Golf Classic	Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club, Mountain Top. Hosted by Blood Hound & UGI Utilities. All proceeds will be donated to the John Malvizzi Foundation, a nonprofit organization focused on improving mental health by providing families and communities with resources.	
IN PER	RSON EVENTS	S - SAFETY DAY CONFERENCES		
THU	06-13-24	York County	York	Safety Day Conferences are numerous educational sessions throughout the day
TUE	09-17-24	Erie County	Erie	promoting the protection of critical underground
THU	09-19-24	Washington County	Canonsburg	infrastructure and safe digging practices. DEP 2 contact hours. www.pa1call.org/SafetyDay
IN-PE	RSON & ONL	NE UTILITY COORDINATING COM	MITTEE MEETIN	IGS
WED	06-05-24	LVRP	Lehigh	
TUE	06-18-24	Clarion County UCC	Clarion	Utility Coordinating Committees are a valuable asset to all parties involved in an excavation
THU	06-20-24	Mercer County UCC	Mercer	project where underground utilities are involved.
THU	06-27-24	Potter Cameron Counties UCC	Potter	project where underground dunities are involved.

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2024 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 r	nember of the I.S.E.E.?
 Please select your membership type: □ Individual - Chapter dues are \$35.00 per year. □ Deluxe Corporate Membership - Dues are \$25 quarterly newsletter (\$180 value). Please list nam □ Corporate Membership - Dues are \$155.00 for newsletter (\$60 value). Please list name, email ad 	ne, email address up to 5 members	and ISEE status for all members. plus a business card ad in the quarterly
I agree to comply with the Constitution, By-Laws and R	egulations of the	Chapter.
Signature of Applicant		
Payment can be made by credit card or o	check. Please	select your payment option.

□Credit Card - Visit the Chapter website to pay online (http://www.easternpaisee.com/membership/) or contact Scott Mueller to pay over the phone. □Check - Please make checks payable to Eastern PA Chapter I.S.E.E. Send to: Scott Mueller PO Box 94, Souderton, PA 18964 smueller@bluestonedrilling.com

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1/4 Page (1 Issue)	\$40.00	1/4 Page (4 Issues)	\$110.00
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