



# Lead Lines



Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter  
International Society of Explosives Engineers  
[www.easternpaisee.com](http://www.easternpaisee.com)

Volume 31 Number 4

Fall 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 Clay Shoot & BBQ

Friday, November 8, 2024

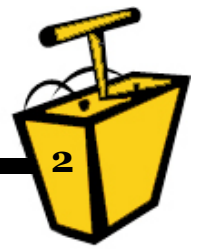
11:30am - 5:00pm

Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays

2750 Limestone St., Coplay, PA

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

Prizes will be awarded!



## 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,

It's officially fall and that means the leaves are changing, deer season is approaching and our annual Clay Shoot & BBQ is coming up! This year's event is Friday, November 8th. The format will remain the same with lunch served at 11:30am, a mandatory safety class at 12:30pm with a 1pm start. In addition to our 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and Lewis Class winners, we will again offer our lucky station course contest. This year we will be raffling off a Weatherby Orion 12 gauge shotgun. New this year we will have a silent auction for 4 Penn State Football Tickets for the game on Saturday, November 30, 2024 where Penn State will go up against Maryland. The tickets are for section WB, row 2, seats 21, 23, 25, 27. We also have some other prizes planned for this years event along with our raffle.

Sadly, Don Hall has passed. Don was a prominent figure at ISEE conferences and local chapter events. Don was one of the major promoters and primarily founders of the Eastern Pa Chapter ISEE. His obituary can be found on page 13.

In August we were excited to host our member appreciation baseball game at the Iron Pigs Stadium in Allentown. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate and the game was rained out. Instead of trying to reschedule our outing for late in the season we opted to book a game in the Spring. Our Member Appreciation Baseball Game is May 8, 2025 – Save the Date!

Finally, we appreciate your continued support and hope to see you at these upcoming events!

Best regards,

Danny Ray Leach



## Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Clay Shoot & BBQ

On Friday, November 8th the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter will host it's eighth annual Clay Shoot and BBQ. Join us at 11:30am for a BBQ lunch followed by a mandatory 12:30pm safety class and 1pm start at the Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays course in Coplay, PA.

The event is FREE for members. Non-members will be charged \$35 for a Chapter Membership. Registration includes a BBQ lunch, 8 station course with 50 rounds, and friendly competition. Ear protection is provided. You are encouraged to bring eye protection or purchase glasses for \$10.00. Prizes will be awarded! We will raffle off a Weatherby Orion 12 gauge shotgun. And new this year, we will have a silent auction for 4 Penn State Football Tickets.

If you are interested in registering, please visit <https://www.easternpaisee.com/clay-shoot-bbq-registration/> or complete the attached form on page 4.

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*(Must be Present at Clay Shoot & BBQ to Win)*



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# Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Clay Shoot & BBQ



**Friday, November 8, 2024**

**FREE for Members**

**\$35 for Non-Members**

**11:30am - 5:30pm**

**Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays**

**2750 Limestone St., Coplay, PA**

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**Deadline to register is Friday, November 1, 2024**

Your registration includes a BBQ lunch, 8 station course with 50 rounds and a golf cart per team of 4. Ear protection is provided. You are encouraged to bring eye protection or purchase glasses for \$10.00.

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

Prizes will be awarded!

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 21 and this registration form to sign-up.

**Send to:**

**Eastern PA Chapter I.S.E.E.**

**Attn: Scott Mueller**

**PO Box 94, Souderton, PA 18964**

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# Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Clay Shoot & BBQ



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## Rained Out Baseball Game Outing

On August 8, 2024 the Eastern PA Chapter ISEE had planned to hold the first Annual Membership Appreciation event at the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs baseball game. Attendance was free to all members and their families. Thirty members signed up to attend the event. However, due to the weather only 15 members attended the rainy night out. The ball game started despite the rain but the clouds opened up, as predicted, and down poured for 30 minutes before they cancelled the game. The Chapter will host another Member Appreciation Baseball Game at the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs on May 8, 2025.

Pictured are some of the wet Chapter members in the drizzling rain as the game started (from left to right) Harold Betterly, Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc., Bernard Blasko, Danny Ray Leach, Eastern PA ISEE Chapter President, Marc Blasko, Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc., and John Longo, Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc.



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## **EXPLOSIVES & SAFETY SECTION ANNOUNCEMENT**

August 23, 2024 - The following is an important announcement from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to all licensed blasters. You are receiving this message because you are a licensed blaster in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or have asked to be included on this mailing list.

It has come to the Department's attention that in 25 Pa. Code § 77.564(g)(7) of the noncoal mining regulations, one use of the term blast area is better understood as blast site.

The regulation currently reads:

7) When explosives are being loaded in drill holes in preparation for a shot, work within a radius of 50 feet of the blast area, except for the work being accomplished by the persons engaged in the blasting operation, shall cease, and machinery, other than machinery necessary to the blasting operation, within the confines of this area shall be brought to a complete rest. After inspection of the blast area by the Department, the Department may establish an alternate distance limitation.

In DEP's Chapter 211 regulations, the term blast site is understood to be where the explosives are being loaded and is formed by the perimeter of the holes being loaded, while blast area is the wider area that must later be cleared and secured prior to detonation. It is a minor inconsistency but it could make a real difference in the application of § 77.564(g)(7) since the current use of blast area, as highlighted above, implies that during loading all work would have to cease in a much larger area than is necessary.

The Department recognizes that this inconsistency exists and we are actively working to change this instance of the term blast area to blast site. In the meantime, industry personnel and regulators should consider this use of the term blast area to mean blast site.

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## Explosives Build America: Economic Impact Study Highlights Critical Role of Commercial Explosives in Building the U.S. Economy

*Published February 15, 2024 and Reprinted from the IME Website*

WASHINGTON, DC – The Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME) released its first-ever economic impact study highlighting the importance of the commercial explosives industry at the national, state, and congressional district levels. The study, based on 2023 data, revealed that the commercial explosives industry creates more than 60,000 jobs and contributes more than \$19 billion each year to the U.S. economy.

Considered the ultimate power tool, commercial explosives are essential for quarrying aggregates necessary to build our nation's infrastructure, mining critical minerals, and producing both traditional and renewable sources of energy.

Continued on page 9



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“Few people today give much thought to the essential role commercial explosives play in our everyday lives,” said IME President Clark Mica. “Throughout our nation’s history, commercial explosives have not only helped build America, they have enabled our modern way of life. Whether it is the car you drive to work, the fuel you use to power your car, the roads you drive on, or the mobile phone you use to communicate, commercial explosives make all of these things possible.”

The economic impact study includes the direct contribution, supplier contribution, and downstream positive impacts of the entire commercial explosives industry value chain—from manufacturers to distributors to users. “This report shows the great success and impact of the commercial explosives industry,” said Tim O’Brien, President of Detotec North America, Inc., and Chair of IME’s Board of Governors.

“The commercial explosives industry creates good-paying career opportunities with good benefits while also being a positive economic driver in our local communities.”

The study showed that commercial explosives generated more than \$1.2 billion in federal taxes and another \$1 billion in state and local taxes for municipalities across the country, funding important projects like building roads and schools.

“Our mission is to improve the world we live in through the safe and responsible use of commercial explosives,” said Jason Rawlings, President of Austin Powder Co., and Vice Chair of IME’s Board of Governors. “While there are still significant opportunities to grow our workforce, you can’t dispute the overall positive impact our industry has in the U.S.”

Continued on page 10



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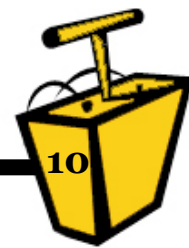
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## Build Continued

Mica concluded: "The impact of commercial explosives cannot be understated. As the first link in many of our nation's supply chains, commercial explosives truly build America."

The study was conducted by John Dunham & Associates, a prominent economic research firm, and was commissioned by the Institute of Makers of Explosives.

For more information, including industry data at the state and congressional district levels, please visit [www.explosivesbuildamerica.org](http://www.explosivesbuildamerica.org).



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## Obituary: Donald A Hall

Donald Allen Hall, 92, of Allentown, PA, died October 7th, 2024 at Luther Crest Retirement Community. He was the loving husband of Suellen (Durkin) for 26 years and was preceded in death by his wife of 43 years Patricia R. Hall (Trinka). He was born in Rhinelander, WI on May 1, 1932. He was the son of Laughlin D. Hall and Lucille Hall (Carlson).

Don attended Eagle River High School and was a skilled athlete who earned nine varsity letters in basketball, baseball and football. He was inducted into the Eagle River Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009. Don graduated from Michigan Technological University in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering.

He then enlisted in the Marine Corps and started active duty at Quantico, VA, finishing in 1957 at Camp Pendleton, CA as a first lieutenant. He loved listening and singing ("ooh-rah!") the Marine Corps Hymn even on his last day.

Don transitioned to the mining industry in 1958 and moved with his family to the Lehigh Valley where he began a 20-year career in the explosives industry. He purchased SHS of Allentown which he sold in 1998 and retired. He was active in his community, both at the Church of the Mediator and as a Rotarian.

In addition to his wife Suellen, Don is survived by his brother Frank Hall; his daughters Wendy Smith, Kim Hopper (Jerry), and Ardyth Hall; his stepsons and stepdaughters James Durkin (Barbara), Colleen Lynch (Earl), Kevin Durkin (Tracy), Kathryn Schutzler (Peter), Sean Durkin (Erin); his 17 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Contributions: The family requests contributions be made to the Church of the Mediator, 1620 W Turner St., Allentown, PA 18102. <https://episcopalmediator.org> Turner St., Allentown, PA 18102.



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## Joint Chapter Meeting set for November 5th

The Eastern PA Chapter along with the Penn State Student Chapter will host a Joint Chapter meeting on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 6:00pm on the Penn State University Campus, Hosler Building Room 157. Guest speaker, Christopher D Catalano, Chief, Explosives and Safety Section with the Department of Environmental Protection will give a presentation on Blasters Math.

The meeting will be held in-person and virtually.

Please RSVP to Dan Leach via email at [danleach58@gmail.com](mailto:danleach58@gmail.com) if you plan to attend or participate.

Robert McClure  
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## Orica Celebrates 150 Years

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**Detonator plant and ammonia fertilizer plant at Deer Park.**

Founded in June 1874, as a supplier of explosives to the Victorian gold fields in Australia, Orica has grown to be one of the world's leading mining and infrastructure solution providers, with more than 12,500 employees operating in over 100 countries around the globe. Orica has pioneered research-led innovation, while maintaining proud traditions of safety, respect, teamwork, integrity, and excellence.

Orica has grown to become one of the leading publicly owned companies listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. The original company, Jones, Scott and Co., was bought by Nobel Explosives which went on to merge with Brunner Mond and Co., United Alkali Company, and British Dyestuffs Corporation to form Imperial Chemical Industries Plc (ICI). Throughout the journey there have been several transformations.

In 1883, Nobel Explosives purchased the Brownsburg plant originally founded by Daniel Smith's Hamilton Powder Company to produce black powder, which was used for hunting, quarrying, and land clearing. The company, which changed its name to the Australian Explosives and Chemical Company in 1888, stopped making powders in

1892. By the end of World War I, it had moved into the heavy chemical industry.

In 1940, Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand (ICIANZ) commissioned a detonator plant, an ammonia fertilizer plant at Deer Park, as well as a phosphorus plant beside the Yarraville chemical works. Production of ammonium chloride and hydrochloric acid began in Mayfield, in 1942. By 1956, Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies opened ICIANZ's new research lab in Ascot Vale, Melbourne.

Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand (ICIANZ) became ICI Australia in 1971. When parent company ICI divested its major shareholding in ICI Australia in 1997, a new independent Australasian company was formed; and on February 2, 1998, they became known as Orica.

In 2015, the company sold its chemicals division which became an independent company called Ixom. In 2018, the acquisition of

GroundProbe, a global market leader in the provision of critical monitoring and measurement technologies for the mining sector was made.

The acquisition of Exsa, Peru's leading manufacturer and distributor of industrial explosives, happened in 2020; a year later, RIG Technologies and Hopper Industrial Group formed part of their orebody intelligence and digital solutions portfolio. During 2022, the company acquired Axis Mining Technology, a leader in the design, development, and manufacture of specialized geospatial tools and instruments for the mining industry. This year, Orica acquired Cyanco, a U.S.-based leader in the manufacture and distribution of sodium cyanide.

As Orica continues to evolve further into the global company it is today, they continue to maintain proud traditions of safety, leadership, innovation, sustainability, and quality.





An aerial photograph of a town with a large, deep crater in the foreground. The crater is filled with dark, rocky material and has a large plume of white dust or smoke rising from its center. The town in the background is densely packed with houses and buildings. A small vehicle is visible on the right side of the image.

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## Animal Crossing

When it comes to deer in the headlights, PA leads the nation

*Source: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Sunday, September 29, 2024*

*Written by: Tim Grant*

Pennsylvania drivers are heading to the most dangerous stretch of the year for vehicle collisions with animals. From October through December, wildlife encounters on the road skyrocket, with deer leading the charge and smaller critters like racoons, dogs and even coyotes not far behind, according to State Farm Insurance Company.

"We even seen bear showing up in Pennsylvania and surrounding states as the cause of collision," said Dave Phillips, a spokesman for State Farm.

"In most states, rodents like squirrels, racoons, opossum and dogs are common culprits," he said adding that deer are definitely the No. 1 animal that gets hit.

Continued on page 18



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## Deer Continued

According to State Farm, Pennsylvania ranks No. 1 in the nation for the sheer number of animal collisions, with more than 150,000 claims filed from July 1st, 2023 to June 30th, 2024.

West Virginia, however, is the riskiest state when it comes to drivers hitting animals, since motorists there have a 1-in-40 chance of colliding with an animal. Pennsylvania drivers have slightly better odds with a 1-in-61 chance of hitting an animal. But that's risky enough to earn Pennsylvania a No. 4 ranking based on rates.

Nationally, drivers have a 1-in-128 chance of hitting an animal, according to State Farm.

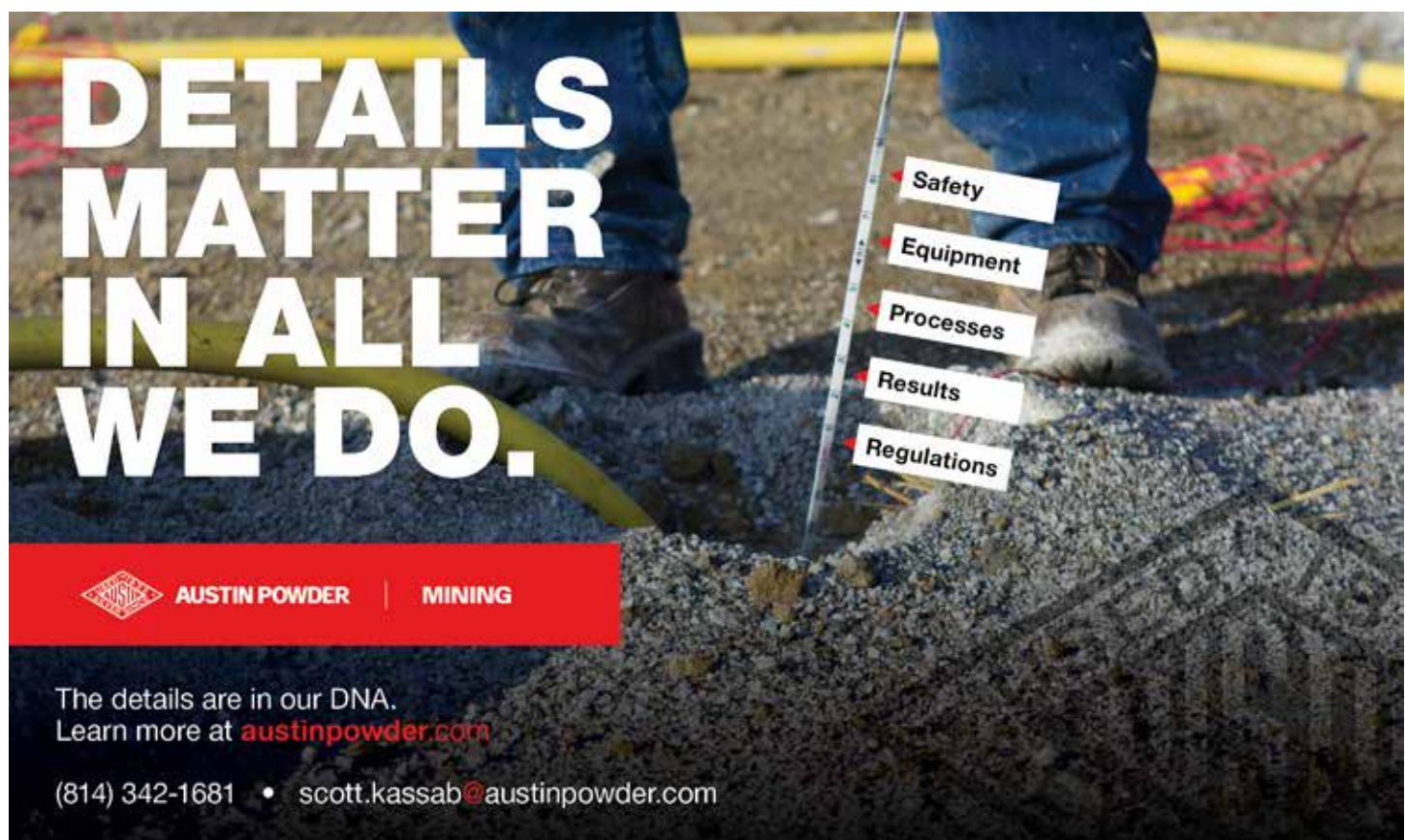
As for the impact on a driver's insurance rates, collisions with deer and other animals are viewed as accidental and not as fault, according to Phillips.

"It shouldn't impact your insurance directly," he said. "However, your driving history and previous claim history could impact future review.

"Also, if you were cited at the collision for speeding, reckless driving, or intoxication, that could change the claim and its repercussions.


Phillips said drivers need to have comprehensive coverage in their auto policy to cover animal-versus-vehicle collisions, and deductibles apply.

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## Deer Continued

In all states, the insurance industry paid for an estimated 1.8 million animal collisions in the 12-month period. Nearly 1.3 million of those collisions involved deer. The claim costs vary widely since the damage could range from a scuffed bumper to a totaled car., depending, among other things, on the size of the animal hit.

The top three months drivers are most likely to run into an animal on the road are October, November and December- with November being the peak month.

Phillips said Pennsylvania is in the bullseye for animal collisions because of its large deer population.

“The impact of urban sprawl to rural areas displaces animals and puts roadways and speeding cars where animals didn’t once have them there,” he said.

How to stay safe

State Farm offered some safety tips to avoid animal collisions:

-Slow down. Reduce your vehicles speed and maintain a constant lookout for animals. Travel at a speed that will allow you to stop in time if an animal comes into the beam cast by your headlights.

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## Deer Continued

- Use extra caution in known animal crossing zones.
- Dusk to dawn are high risk times. Use high beams when appropriate.
- Scan the road and avoid swerving when you see an animal. Brake firmly when you notice an animal in or near your path, but stay in your lane. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars.
- Always wear your seatbelt.
- After a crash, move your vehicle to a safe place. Pull to the side of the road and turn on your hazard lights.
- Call the police. If an animal is blocking traffic, it could be a threat for other drivers.
- Document the crash scene. Take photographs of the road, your surroundings and damage.
- Stay away from the animal. A frightened wounded animal could use its legs and hooves to harm you. Do not attempt to move an animal.
- Do not assume your vehicle is safe to drive. Look for leaking fluids, loose parts, tire damage, broken lights and other hazards.
- Contact your insurance company.



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