



# Lead Lines



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

Volume 32 Number 1

Winter 2025

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!**

**Thursday, May 8, 2025**

**Coca-Cola Park  
1050 Iron Pigs Way  
Allentown, PA 18109**

**PPL Picnic Patio**



# ISEE

**International Society  
of Explosives Engineers**

**ISEE is celebrating 50 Years!**

Check out the ISEE 50th Anniversary Timeline



## 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,

As we welcomed 2025, the ISEE hosted its annual meeting in Cherokee, North Carolina. During the conference, leadership from the Eastern PA Chapter gathered at the Chapter Workshop Meeting. The Eastern PA Chapter was presented with the Membership Award.

In January the Executive Board met and approved the renewal of board members: John Benedict, Dave Harrison, Ethan Huff, Matt Tomlin and Kirk Whitaker. The Chapter is currently looking to fill the positions of President, Vice President and Programming Chair on the board of directors. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else in the industry for these positions, please let me know.

On May 8th we will host our member appreciation baseball game at the Iron Pigs Stadium in Allentown. The event will be free for members and their family to attend. Details about registration will be available in the Spring. And speaking of baseball game tickets - since our summer baseball game was rained out, we have Iron Pig tickets available for members. The tickets are located along 3rd base and include a \$10 food voucher. Please contact me to secure your tickets.

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

Best regards,

Danny Ray Leach



# Lead Lines



## Save the Date!

### The 21st Pennsylvania Drilling and Blasting Conference



November 13-14, 2025

The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel  
State College, Pennsylvania

### 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 400 practitioners and 45 exhibitors to discover new approaches related to the industry.

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



**Samuel Long**

Area Business Manager- US North

Orica USA, Inc.  
7000 Stitzells Road  
Greencastle Pennsylvania 17225  
E-mail: [samuel.long@orica.com](mailto:samuel.long@orica.com)  
Cell +1-717-494-9934



**Ed Ciocco**

Account Manager  
[eciocco@iexpesco.com](mailto:eciocco@iexpesco.com)  
484.614.9313

**Mark Proctor**

Account Manager  
[mproctor@iexpesco.com](mailto:mproctor@iexpesco.com)  
315.430.4683

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# Clay Shoot & BBQ

On November 8, 2024, the Eastern PA Chapter ISEE hosted the 8th Annual Clay Shoot and BBQ at the Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays facility in Allentown, PA. The venue is built on an old quarry site that utilizes the ponds and the old limestone structures for the challenging course. There were 60 attendees and 54 shooters that participated in the event.

First place winner was Rodney Schweizer from EPIROC; second place winner was Randy Van Scyoc from OPPC Farms LLC; and third place winner was Jerry Brumbaugh from Buffalo Creek Explosives.

The Class A Lewis class winner was Rob Tourney from Buffalo Creek Explosives, the Class B Lewis class winner was Doug Long from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., and the Class C Lewis class winner was Sebastian Kaniecki from Gill Rock Drill Co.

The shotgun raffle winner was Dante Caul from PACT Construction.



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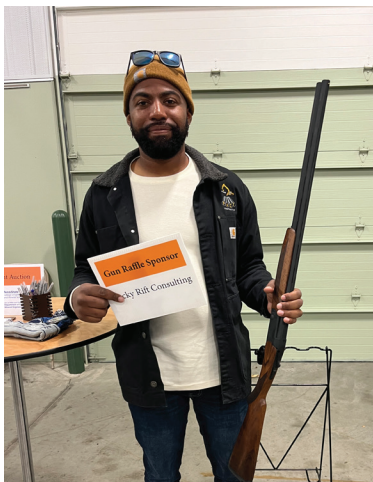
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# Clay Shoot & BBQ



Save the Date!

9th Annual Clay Shoot & BBQ will be Friday, October 24, 2025



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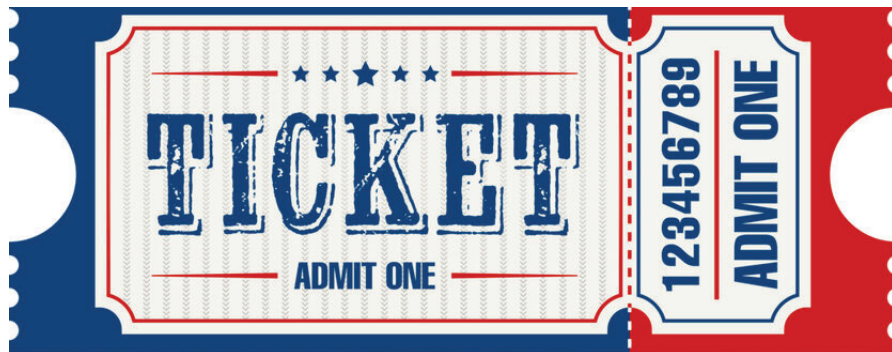
# Lead Lines



## Iron Pigs Baseball Tickets Available

In 2024 our Member Appreciation Baseball game was rained out. Because the game was cancelled, we have several tickets available for members to use for the upcoming season.

The available seats are located along the 3rd base and include a \$10 food voucher. Members interested in requesting the tickets can contact Danny Ray Leach at [danleach58@gmail.com](mailto:danleach58@gmail.com)



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## Mine Safety and Health Administration

April 18, 2024 - Federal Register / Vol. 89, No. 76

Some commenters from industry trade associations and mining trade associations requested that MSHA clarify the rule's applicability to mining contractors in the final rule (Document ID 1422; 1433; 1424; 1428; 1378). Consistent with the Mine Act, MSHA's existing standards, and the Agency's longstanding policy, independent contractors engaging in mining activities, including construction, maintenance, and drilling, are required to comply with the requirements in this final rule. See 30 U.S.C. 802(d) (defining "operator" to include "any independent contractor performing services or construction" at a mine) and § 802(g) (defining "miner" as "any individual working in a coal or other mine"). MSHA has a long history and practice of enforcing its standards and regulations for mine operators and independent contractors designated under part 45 of 30 CFR. The Agency believes that the industry is familiar with and understands this history and activities that they perform for requirements of this final rule, as it different mines, generally separate from other part 45 independent contractors, MSHA anticipates that the production operator may comply with the requirements of this final rule for their miners, depending upon the types of services provided. For example, MSHA expects that production operators will generally comply with the requirements of this final rule for independent contractors that perform hauling services for mines. This final rule provides improved health protections for miners of both part 45 independent contractors and production operators. As with the implementation of any new MSHA standard, the Agency expects that production operators and part 45 independent contractors will communicate and coordinate with each other, as appropriate, to comply with the final rule and ensure that miners' safety and health are protected.

**Avery Martin**  
Sales Manager East USA Surface Drills

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Sandvik Mining and Rock Solutions  
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## Winter Weather

*Published by U.S. Department of Labor - Occupational Safety and Health Administration*

### Hazards/Precautions

In addition to cold stress, there are other winter weather related hazards that workers may be exposed to when performing tasks such as driving in the snow, removing snow from rooftops , and working near downed or damaged power lines.

- Winter Driving
- Work Zone Traffic Safety
- Stranded in a Vehicle
- Shoveling Snow
- Using Powered Equipment like Snow Blowers
- Clearing Snow from Roofs and Working at Heights
- Preventing Slips on Snow and Ice
- Repairing Downed or Damaged Power Lines
- Working Near Downed or Damaged Power Lines
- Removing Downed Trees

Continued on page 10

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## Winter Continued

### Winter Driving

Although employers cannot control roadway conditions, they can promote safe driving behavior by ensuring workers: recognize the hazards of winter weather driving, for example, driving on snow/ice covered roads; are properly trained for driving in winter weather conditions; and are licensed (as applicable) for the vehicles they operate. For information about driving safely during the winter, visit OSHA's Safe Winter Driving page.

Employers should set and enforce driver safety policies. Employers should also implement an effective maintenance program for all vehicles and mechanized equipment that workers are required to operate. Crashes can be avoided. Learn more at: Motor Vehicle Safety (OSHA Safety and Health Topic's Page).

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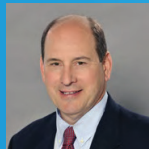
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## Winter Continued

Employers should ensure properly trained workers' inspect the following vehicle systems to determine if they are working properly:

- Brakes: Brakes should provide even and balanced braking. Also check that brake fluid is at the proper level.
- Cooling System: Ensure a proper mixture of 50/50 antifreeze and water in the cooling system at the proper level.
- Electrical System: Check the ignition system and make sure that the battery is fully charged and that the connections are clean. Check that the alternator belt is in good condition with proper tension.
- Engine: Inspect all engine systems.
- Exhaust System: Check exhaust for leaks and that all clamps and hangers are snug.
- Tires: Check for proper tread depth and no signs of damage or uneven wear. Check for proper tire inflation.
- Oil: Check that oil is at proper level.
- Visibility Systems: Inspect all exterior lights, defrosters (windshield and rear window), and wipers. Install winter windshield wipers.

Continued on page 13



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## Winter Continued

An emergency kit with the following items is recommended in vehicles:

- Cellphone or two-way radio
- Windshield ice scraper
- Snow brush
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Shovel
- Tow chain
- Traction aids (bag of sand or cat litter)
- Emergency flares
- Jumper cables
- Snacks
- Water
- Road maps
- Blankets, change of clothes



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An aerial photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, 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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## Winter Continued

### Work Zone Traffic Safety

Workers being struck by vehicles or mobile equipment lead to many work zone fatalities or injuries annually. Drivers may skid, or lose control of their vehicles more easily when driving on snow and/or ice covered roads. It is therefore, important to properly set up work zones with the traffic controls identified by signs, cones, barrels, and barriers, to protect workers. Workers exposed to vehicular traffic should wear the appropriate high visibility vest at all times, so that they can be visible to motorists (OSHA Letter of Interpretation, dated, August 5, 2009).

Learn more at: Work Zone Traffic Safety (OSHA QuickCard™) and Highway Work Zones and Signs, Signals, and Barricades (OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page).

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## Winter Continued

### Stranded in a Vehicle

If you are stranded in a vehicle, stay in the vehicle. Call for emergency assistance if needed, response time may be slow in severe winter weather conditions. Notify your supervisor of your situation. Do not leave the vehicle to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards. You may become disoriented and get lost in blowing and drifting snow. Display a trouble sign by hanging a brightly colored cloth on the vehicle's radio antenna and raising the hood. Turn on the vehicle's engine for about 10 minutes each hour and run the heat to keep warm. Also, turn on the vehicle's dome light when the vehicle is running as an additional signal. Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow, and open a downwind window slightly for ventilation.

Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Do minor exercises to maintain good blood circulation in your body. Clap hands and move arms and legs occasionally. Try not to stay in one position for too long. Stay awake, you will be less vulnerable to cold-related health problems. Use blankets, newspapers, maps, and even the removable car mats for added insulation. Avoid overexertion since cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing vehicle can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse.

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## Winter Continued

### Shoveling Snow

Shoveling snow can be a strenuous activity, particularly because cold weather can be taxing on the body. There is a potential for exhaustion, dehydration, back injuries, or heart attacks. During snow removal in addition to following the tips for avoiding cold stress, such as taking frequent breaks in warm areas, there are other precautions workers can take to avoid injuries. Workers should warm-up before the activity, scoop small amounts of snow at a time and where possible, push the snow instead of lifting it. The use of proper lifting technique is necessary to avoid back and other injuries when shoveling snow: keep the back straight, lift with the legs and do not turn or twist the body.

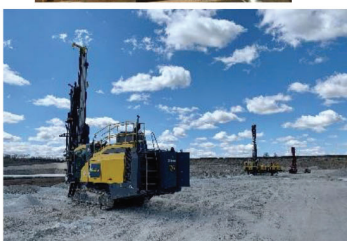
### Using Powered Equipment like Snow Blowers

It is important to make sure that powered equipment, such as snowblowers are properly grounded to protect workers from electric shocks or electrocutions. When performing maintenance or cleaning, make sure the equipment is properly guarded and is disconnected from power sources.

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## Winter Continued

Snow blowers commonly cause lacerations or amputations when operators attempt to clear jams with the equipment turned on. Never attempt to clear a jam by hand. First, turn the snow blower off and wait for all moving parts to stop, and then use a long stick to clear wet snow or debris from the machine. Keep your hands and feet away from moving parts. Refuel a snow blower prior to starting the machine; do not add fuel when the equipment is running or when the engine is hot.

### Clearing Snow from Roofs and Working at Heights

Employers must evaluate snow removal tasks for hazards and plan how to do the work safely. Workers should be aware of the potential for unexpected hazards due to the weather conditions, for example, layers of ice can form as the environmental temperature drops, making surfaces even more slippery. A surface that is weighed down by snow must be inspected by a competent person to determine if it is structurally safe for workers to access it, because it may be at risk of collapsing. Snow covered rooftops can hide hazards such as skylights that workers can fall through. Electrical hazards may also exist from overhead power lines or snow removal equipment.

Employers can protect workers from these hazardous work conditions, for example, by using snow removal methods that do not involve workers going on roofs, when and where possible. Employers should determine the right type of equipment (ladders, aerial lifts, etc.) and personal protective equipment (personal fall arrest systems, non-slip safety boots, etc.) for the job and ensure that workers are trained on how to properly use them. For more information, see OSHA's Hazard Alert: Falls and Other Hazards to Workers Removing Snow from Roof tops and Other Elevated Surfaces

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## Winter Continued

### Preventing Slips on Snow and Ice

To prevent slips, trips, and falls, employers should clear walking surfaces of snow and ice, and spread deicer, as quickly as possible after a winter storm. In addition, the following precautions will help reduce the likelihood of injuries:

- Wear proper footwear when walking on snow or ice is unavoidable, because it is especially treacherous. A pair of insulated and water resistant boots with good rubber treads is a must for walking during or after a winter storm. Keeping a pair of rubber over-shoes with good treads which fit over your street shoes is a good idea during the winter months.
- Take short steps and walk at a slower pace so you can react quickly to a change in traction, when walking on an icy or snow-covered walkway.

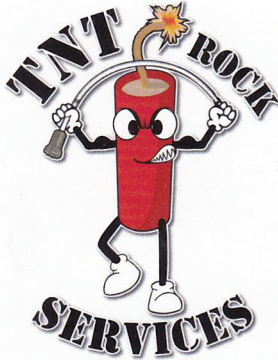
### Repairing Downed or Damaged Power Lines

Repairing and/or replacing damaged power lines in severe winter weather conditions are especially hazardous. A major hazard is snow, because the moisture can reduce the insulation value of protective equipment, and could cause electrocution. In these conditions de-energized work is safer, but if energized work must be done, qualified workers and supervisors must first do a hazard analysis that includes evaluating the weather conditions and identifying how to safely do the job.

Other potential hazards include:

- Electrocution by contacting downed energized power lines, or contacting objects, such as broken tree limbs, in contact with downed energized power lines.
- Fires caused by an energized line or equipment failure.
- Being struck or crushed by falling tree limbs, collapsing poles, etc.

When working on downed or damaged power lines, electrical utility workers should use safe work practices, appropriate tools and equipment (including personal protective equipment (PPE)). Extra caution should be exercised when working in adverse weather conditions. Learn more at: Contact with Power Lines (OSHA Construction eTool).



**Tom Shaver**  
Vice President

540-839-9147  
Brrs@tds.net



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JUSTIN SMITH  
Drilling & Blasting Coordinator

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## Executive Board Nominations

The Eastern PA Chapter is looking to fill the following Chapter Board positions:

President,  
Vice President  
Programming Chair

If you are interested in nominating yourself or a Chapter member, please contact Danny Ray Leach (danleach58@gmail.com ). All nominations need to be submitted by March 31st for consideration.

## Winter Continued

### Working Near Downed or Damaged Power Lines

Assume all power lines are energized and stay clear of any downed or damaged power lines. Establish a safe distance from power lines and report any incidents to the responsible authority. Only properly-trained electrical utility workers can handle damaged power lines. Learn more at: Contact with Power Lines (OSHA Construction eTool) and Working Safely Around Downed Electrical Wires (OSHA Fact Sheet).

### Removing Downed Trees

Clearing downed trees is a critical job during severe winter weather conditions. It is usually urgent to remove downed trees that block public roads and damage power lines. Emergency crews are often tasked with clearing downed trees.

Potential hazards include:

- Electrocution by contacting downed energized power lines or contacting broken tree limbs in contact with downed energized power lines. Learn more at: Line Clearance Tree Trimming Operations (OSHA Electric Power eTool).
- Falls from heights.
- Being injured by equipment such as chain saws (Chain Saw Safety (OSHA QuickCard™)) and chippers (Chipper Machine Safety (OSHAQuickCard™)).

Workers should wear PPE that protect them from the hazards of the tree removal tasks. Workers using chain saws and chippers to clear downed trees should use: gloves, chaps, foot protection, eye protection, fall protection, hearing protection and head protection.

Only powered equipment designed for outdoor and wet conditions should be used. Use all equipment and tools (saws, chippers, etc.) properly and for the purpose that they are designed for. Ensure that equipment is always maintained in serviceable condition and inspected before use by a knowledgeable person that can identify any problems with the equipment. Do not use equipment that is not functioning properly. Equipment must have proper guarding (as applicable); safe guards must never be bypassed.



## 2025 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 \$255.00 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 \$155.00 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.

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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 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](mailto:smueller@bluestonedrilling.com)**



# Lead Lines



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- ☐ 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](mailto:smueller@bluestonedrilling.com)**