



Lead Lines



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

Volume 32 Number 2

Spring 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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Member Appreciation Baseball Game

Thursday, May 8, 2025

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

PPL Picnic Patio

On Thursday, May 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 Ron Eichler, Chapter President. "Members along with their families are invited to join us at the baseball game."

The event is free for members, but you must register early to guarantee 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.



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,

I am honored to serve as the Chapter President. I am looking forward to continuing to bring education and industry resources as we plan Chapter events through 2025. As we move through the year if you have any ideas or resources to share with our members, 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. To register, please RSVP to Danny Ray Leach. We also still have leftover baseball tickets from last years rained out baseball game. The tickets are located along 3rd base and include a \$10 food voucher. Please contact Danny Leach to secure your tickets.

On Thursday, July 10th our Chapter will host a Blasters Training event at the Blair County Convention Center. The class will take place from 8am - 5pm. We are excited for the speakers who have already committed and are looking forward to bringing you training hours.

The Fall is also shaping up to be busy with the Clay Shoot and BBQ scheduled for Friday, October 24th then the Pennsylvania Drilling and Blasting Conference at State College on November 13 & 14.

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

Best regards,

Ron Eichler



2025 Blasters Training Set for July 10th

The Eastern Pennsylvania & Mid-Atlantic ISEE Chapters will host a 2025 Blasters' Training on Thursday, July 10, 2025 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 breaks.

Our confirmed speakers to date include:

- * Troopers from the Pennsylvania State Police
- * Frank Chiappetta, MSc, P. Eng., Blasting Analysis International, Inc.
- * Benny Staudt - Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc.
- * Dennis Gibson, Mitsubishi Materials USA

Register Today!

Early Bird Pricing (Now until June 27)

\$150 for Eastern PA Chapter Members

\$185 for Non-Members (registration includes 2024 Eastern PA Chapter Membership)

Registration after June 27th

\$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.

Discount room rates are available at the Country Inn & Suites located at 2 Convention Center Drive, Altoona, PA 16602. Please call 814-312-1800 and reference the Eastern PA ISEE room block.



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2025 Blasters' Training

Thursday, July 10, 2025

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 breaks

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

Early Bird Pricing by June 27th	Regular Pricing after June 27th	Membership Type
\$150	\$190	Eastern PA Chapter Members
\$185	\$225	Non-Members (registration includes 2025 Eastern PA Chapter Membership)

To register and sponsor the training, please visit

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



RE: Notice to all explosives magazine license holders regarding group weights

FROM: Christopher D Catalano, Chief (Explosives & Safety Section)

DATE: January 15, 2025

DEP has answered a number of inquiries regarding weight limits allowed in each licensed magazine when several magazines are part of a grouping. This notice is intended to clarify how the Department considers maximum explosives storage weight limits when magazines are within such a group.

Pennsylvania issues explosives storage licenses for individual magazines. Each magazine's license indicates the maximum amount of explosives that may be stored within it when the magazine is considered one single storage unit. A magazine is one single unit with its own maximum allowable explosives weight limit when it is separated from other magazines according to the distances set forth in the American Table of Distances (27 CFR §§ 555.218 and 555.219).

When magazines are set closer to one another than the American Table of Distances requires, those magazines are called a group by both DEP and ATF. The group is assigned a maximum allowable explosive weight limit for the whole group, which is determined by taking the group as being one magazine.

Pennsylvania explosives storage licenses have printed on them maximum storage amounts for individual magazines and, when magazines are part of a group, the total for the entire storage group. See the attached example storage license.

For individual magazines that are properly separated from one another, the maximum explosives storage limit for that magazine is clearly indicated on the license, as shown outlined in blue on the example storage license. This maximum allowable explosives weight limit for that magazine must not be exceeded.

For explosives magazines that are part of a group, a maximum storage amount for each magazine is still indicated on the license (outlined in green on the attached example license), however this is an artifact of the way DEP's records are kept. In practice, the amount of explosives stored in each magazine within a group may vary, provided the total group weight is not exceeded. The total group weight on a storage license is printed in bold as shown outlined in red on the attached example storage license.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher D Catalano".

Christopher D Catalano | Chief, Explosives and Safety Section

Department of Environmental Protection | Bureau of Mining Programs

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chcatalano@pa.gov

www.dep.pa.gov



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION BUREAU OF MINING PROGRAMS

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
MAGAZINE STORAGE LICENSE(S)**

ACME EXPLOSIVES, INC.
123 ANY HWY
SOMETOWN, PA 12345

Security Plan ID# 12345678
Account # 654321
Expiration Date 12/31/2025
County: County name Township: Twp. name

Group Name	SL#	Type of Explosives	Maximum Storage	Distance Building	Distance Railway	Distance Highway
ACME MAG GROUP 1	SL-0001	Detonators	120	2300	2000	2340
	SL-0002	Detonators	120	2300	2000	2340
	SL-0003	Detonators	20	2300	2000	2340
	Total Group Storage:		260			
ACME MAG GROUP 2	SL-0004	High Explosives	9000	1700	2000	1750
	SL-0005	High Explosives	3500	1700	2000	1750
	SL-0006	High Explosives	3500	1700	2000	1750
	SL-0007	Blasting Agents	35000	1700	2000	1750
	Total Group Storage:		51000			
NON-GROUPED MAGAZINES	SL-0008	Blasting Agents	150000	2000	2000	1200
	SL-0009	High Explosives	3500	1700	2000	1750
	SL-0010	Detonators	6	2200	2000	1550

Storage license for demonstration purposes only. This does not authorize storage. Any similarity to actual licenses is coincidental.

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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/>.



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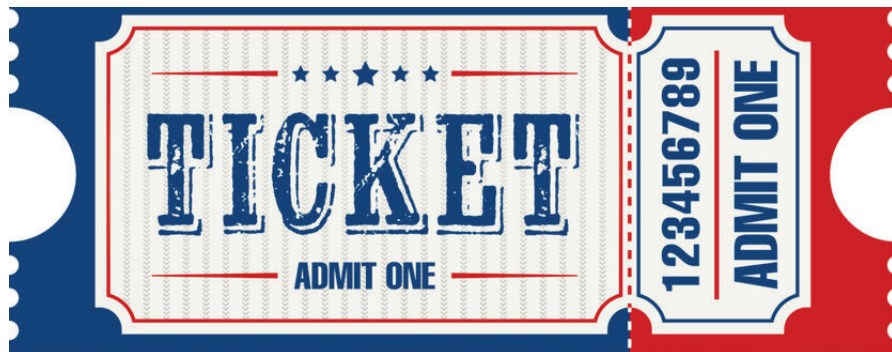
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Iron Pigs Baseball Tickets Available

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



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ISEE Announces the Appointment of Buck Hawkins as the New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the International Society of Explosives Engineers announced the appointment of Buck Hawkins as the new Executive Director. Buck started the position on March 17, becoming the fourth Executive Director of the organization.

Buck began his explosives career as a combat engineer with the Ohio Army National Guard. He served as a demolition instructor teaching nonelectric systems for breaching applications. After receiving a bachelor's in communications from Morehead State University, he enrolled at Missouri S&T and completed a bachelor's in mining engineering and master's in explosives engineering.

During this time Buck deployed to Iraq and Qatar and finished a Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security and Defense from Missouri State University.



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Apply Now for the 2025-2026 SEE Foundation Scholarships!

The Society of Explosives Engineers Education Foundation (SEE Foundation) is now accepting applications for its 2025-2026 scholarships, offering up to \$118,000 USD to students pursuing degrees related to the explosives industry.

These scholarships are available to students at all levels, undergraduate, graduate, and doctorate, who are studying in fields related to commercial explosives. Awards are based on academic achievements, professional goals, a personal challenges narrative, and financial need.

Application Deadline: May 6, 2025, 11:59 p.m. (US Eastern Time)

How to Apply: Submit completed applications to scholarship@isee.org

<https://isee.org/about-isee/give/the-society-of-explosives-engineers-education-foundation>



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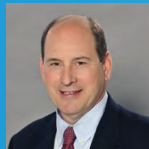
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Top Ten OSHA Violations and How to Avoid Them

Reprinted from the April 2025 WorldWide Drilling Resources

Ensuring safety on construction sites is crucial to protect workers from potential hazards. In an effort to help employers and workers maintain a safe working environment, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a list of the most common violations and how to avoid them:

1. Failure to provide adequate fall protection for employees working at heights - Implement guardrails, safety nets, or personal fall arrest systems for workers at elevations of six feet or more. Conduct regular training on fall hazards and proper use of fall protection equipment. Ensure walking/working surfaces are structurally sound to support workers safely.
2. Improper communication of hazardous materials information - Maintain an up-to-date inventory of all hazardous chemicals on-site. Ensure Safety Data Sheets are readily accessible to all employees. Label all containers with appropriate hazard warnings and provide training on understanding these labels.
3. Improper use or maintenance of ladders - Select the appropriate ladder for the task, ensuring it extends at least three feet above the landing. Inspect ladders before each use for defects such as cracks or missing rungs. Maintain three points of contact when ascending or descending ladders.

Continued on page 15

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Violations Continued

4. Failure to meet scaffolding safety requirements - Erect scaffolds under the supervision of a qualified person. Ensure proper access, guardrails, and stable footing are in place. Regularly inspect scaffolding components for damage or defects.
5. Unsafe operation or maintenance of powered industrial trucks - Ensure all operators are certified and properly trained to handle powered industrial trucks. Perform frequent inspections and maintenance of trucks to identify and address mechanical issues. Enforce speed limits, proper load handling, and safe driving practices in the workplace.
6. Failure to properly control hazardous energy during servicing and maintenance of machines - Establish and enforce a lockout/tagout program outlining the steps for controlling hazardous energy. Train all employees on the importance of the procedures and how to use devices effectively. Ensure lockout/tagout devices are readily available and appropriate for the equipment in use.

Continued on page 17



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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, with a dark orange background behind the text.

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Violations Continued

7. Failure to provide or enforce the use of proper respiratory protection - Identify airborne hazards and assess the need for respiratory protection. Provide respirators which fit properly and are suitable for the specific hazard (e.g., N95 masks for dust or full-face respirators for toxic gases). Conduct fit tests and train employees on correct respirator use, care, and maintenance.

8. Inadequate training on fall protection measures - Provide comprehensive training programs on recognizing fall hazards and correctly using fall protection systems. Maintain records of training sessions and participant attendance. Conduct refresher courses periodically to reinforce safety practices.

9. Not providing or enforcing the use of appropriate eye and face protection - Supply suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) and train workers on the importance of using PPE and how to properly wear it. Replace damaged or worn-out protective gear promptly.

10. Failure to provide adequate guarding for machinery - Ensure all machines have proper guards in place to protect workers from moving parts, flying debris, or sparks. Examples include barrier guards, two-hand tripping devices, or electronic safety sensors. Conduct routine inspections to ensure guards are securely in place and functioning as intended. Train workers to recognize hazards and the importance of not bypassing or tampering with machine guards.

By addressing these common violations proactively, construction workers and employers can create a safer work environment, reduce the risk of accidents, and comply with OSHA regulations.



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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.

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Smartwatches: Distractions While Driving

Reprinted with the permission of Lancer Insurance Company

Modern smartwatches do more than tell time—they are powerful tools that allow wearers to see and send messages, browse the headlines, and take phone calls—all from their wrist. However, when used while behind the wheel, these devices also introduce a serious driving distraction. For commercial drivers who operate larger vehicles that demand full attention and control, even a moment of distraction can have devastating consequences.

How Smartwatches Contribute to Distracted Driving

Distracted driving occurs when a driver's attention is pulled away from the road, reducing their ability to react to hazards. For commercial drivers, distraction is even more dangerous due to the size and stopping distance of their vehicles.

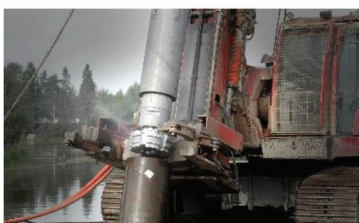
Distractions fall into three main categories:

1. Visual: Taking your eyes off the road.
2. Manual: Taking your hands off the wheel.
3. Cognitive: Taking your mind off driving.

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Smartwatches Continued

Smartwatches contribute to all three types of distractions, increasing the risk of a motor vehicle accident:

- **Visual:** A smartwatch requires a driver to lift their wrist and shift their eyes off the road to read what is on the screen. In addition, the small size of the display often demands prolonged glances, increasing the risk of distraction and delayed reaction times.
- **Manual:** While it may seem as if a smartwatch is a “hands-free” device, interacting with it typically involves tapping, scrolling, or pressing buttons. These actions take at least one hand off the steering wheel, compromising the driver’s control over the vehicle. For commercial drivers, whose vehicles may be more challenging to maneuver, this distraction can have severe implications, especially in tight or congested areas.
- **Cognitive:** When notifications are received, smartwatches will light up, chime, or vibrate, triggering an

impulse for the user to check their wrist. Even if a driver resists the urge to look at their smartwatch, the mental distraction of wondering who messaged or what alert just appeared can impact focus and reaction times. Voice-activated smartwatches—designed for hands-free interaction—may still pull a driver’s focus away from the road, leading to critical lapses in attention and delayed responses.

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Smartwatches Continued

Smart Driving Habits for Commercial Drivers

To minimize risks, commercial drivers should adopt these best practices:

- Disable or limit smartwatch notifications. Silence notifications or enable the “Do Not Disturb” mode before starting a trip.
- Refrain from using your smartwatch for navigation while driving. Instead, opt for a securely mounted GPS device designed for commercial motor vehicles.
- Keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road. Avoid using smartwatches while driving, even for quick glances.
- Pull over in a safe, legal location to check your smartwatch or make any phone calls. Remember that even hands-free calling can be distracting.
- Treat your smartwatch like a phone. Federal regulations prohibit commercial drivers from using handheld mobile devices while driving, with violations leading to fines, disqualification, and negative impacts on Safety Measurement System (SMS) scores. While smartwatches are not explicitly mentioned in federal rules, they pose similar risks and may be considered a violation under distracted driving laws in many jurisdictions. In fact, recent research conducted at HEC Montreal Tech3Lab in Quebec found that smartwatches are more distracting than mobile phones, further underscoring the dangers of using these devices while operating a commercial vehicle.

Stay Focused, Stay Safe

Smartwatches may keep you connected, but when you are behind the wheel, they can disconnect you from what matters most—driving safely. Even a quick glance or tap can lead to an accident. Do not let a small screen create big risks. Silence your smartwatch and make safety your priority. Because at the end of the day, no notification is worth risking your life or others on the road.



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Our equipment allows you to monitor ground vibrations and air over-pressure with ease and accuracy. They can be used for most vibration and sound monitoring activities. This includes blasting operations, pile driving operations, construction equipment activity, environmental activity, ambient levels, and any other operation where a permanent record is needed. Our complete line of seismographs meets or exceeds ISEE standards

CONTACT US TODAY FOR YOUR SEISMOGRAPH NEEDS



NEW! Blasters Training Stipend

The ISEE is excited to announce the launch of the Blasters Training Stipend, designed to support professionals in the industry by covering essential costs for training.

This stipend is a great opportunity for blasters looking to stay ahead of industry trends, improve their skills, and meet certification and industry standards.

What's Covered? The Blasters Training Stipend helps cover:

- Registration Fees
- Travel Expenses
- Meals & Lodging

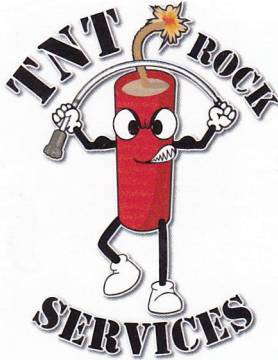
Why Apply?

- Learn New Technology & Techniques- Stay on top of the latest innovations in blasting and explosives engineering.
- Boost Your Skills for Certifications & Industry Standards- Enhance your qualifications and ensure compliance with the latest safety protocols.
- Free ISEE Membership- Non-members will receive a 1 year ISEE membership, opening up a world of networking, resources, and industry connections.

How to Apply:

The application process is simple, and funding is available to help you advance your career.

Apply Now! Visit isee.org/about-isee/give/blasters-stipend-fund to submit your application today.



Tom Shaver
Vice President

540-839-9147
Brrs@tds.net



JUSTIN SMITH
Drilling & Blasting Coordinator

SCHLOUCH
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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.

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
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