

Explosives and Your Safety

Explosives are extremely dangerous substances that require extreme care. Safety is of the utmost importance on the job site and should always be your priority. Follow these guidelines to keep yourself and others safe.

Safety When Blasting

- Never smoke or carry matches, lighters or firearms during blasting activities.
- Never handle explosives if you are under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or other drugs.
- When blasting close to anything that could be damaged, cover the blast before firing with a mat to prevent fragments from being thrown.
- Use precautions including warning signals, flags, barricades and woven wire mats to protect those around the blasting area.
- When there is a threat of an electric storm, stop all operations and evacuate the area.
- Load only those holes that will be fired in the next round of blasting.
- Make drill holes large enough to easily fit cartridges of explosives.
- Before beginning drilling, use a wooden stick to check for unexploded charges in old holes and refire them.
- Give a loud warning signal before firing.

Opening Packages

- Never pack or unpack explosives within 50 feet of a magazine or close to other explosives.
- Securely close open packages of explosives before returning them to a magazine.
- Use tools made of non-sparking materials.
- Use a wood wedge and a fiber, rubber or wood mallet to open and close wood packages of explosives

Housekeeping Procedures

- Keep magazine floors clean, dry and free of grit and other garbage.
- Use brooms and cleaning utensils without metal parts.
- Dispose of sweepings immediately.
- Never pack or unpack explosives within 50 ft.
- If an explosive has become unstable or dangerous, allow an experienced person to destroy it according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- When magazines need repairs, remove explosives and clean floors. Explosives should be placed in another magazine or at a safe distance until they can be returned to the magazine.

Explosives and Vehicles

- Never smoke or carry matches, lighters or firearms while in or near a vehicle transporting explosives.
- A driver, or someone who is familiar with the vehicle and knows how to protect the public from the dangers of the explosives, must be in or around vehicles carrying Class A or Class B explosives at all times unless it is parked in certain secure areas.
- Drive, load and unload vehicles carrying explosives with extreme care.
- Never carry spark-producing metals, oils, matches, firearms, electric storage batteries, flammable substances, acids, oxidizing materials or corrosive compounds on board with explosives except in special circumstances.
- Avoid heavy traffic while transporting explosives.

