

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF EXPLOSIVES ENGINEERS PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

Winter 2011-2012

Volume 3, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- Canadian Chapter Seminar
- Upcoming Events
- ATF Answers Question

Thank you to **Aggregate Resource Industries Inc** for sponsoring this month's newsletter.

Read more about their company on page 6!

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Canadian Chapter, ISEE, Blasting Seminar, October 14th-16th.

The Western Canadian Chapter October blasting seminar gave me a lot of great information about blasting history, efficiency and crew safety

There was a wonderful variety of topics some of the most interesting that I was able to attend where:

Danger Tree Blasting presented by Dave Weymer from D/T Blasting.

The focus was on blasting danger trees and faller safety. My biggest take-a-way from the class was giving your crew options in hazardous situations and in general to accommodate a variety of conditions.

This will lower the risk to your crew. Dave Weymer does contract work and is supported by the BC Forest Safety Council. Contact Dave at D/T Blasting Ltd, Box 185 Port Hardy BC, VON 2P0, PH. (250) 949-0271 E-mail

glmdazy@cablerocket.com

Improve Blasting Economics Through Better

Technology. William Reisz and Davey Bickford, talked about economic advantages for blasting utilizing current technology. The good news, you as blasters. have options. Using tools correctly will produce the best results. With new technology you can design a non-productive shot into a productive, efficient and effective shot.

Avalanche Blasting. Mark Vasily from Orica talked about current trends and technology in avalanche blasting and presented the new Recommended Safe Working Practices for Orica avalanche control products guide. This is a great resource for the avalanche control industry. View at www.oricaminingservices.com click on the avalanche control page.

Cornish Mining. Mike Stern from Orica presented history, methods and techniques used in the Cornish Mines. Very interesting how far back the mining history goes.

NWCC Initiative to Create Drilling and Blasting Course. With the increase in blasting projects in Canada; Lorrie Gowan and Brian Badge from the Northwest Community College lead a discussion about whether the college should present a drilling and blasting course to fill the potential need for operators, drillers and blasters. I feel we should first seek ways to put the experienced driller/blaster back to work and mentor the new blasters to the industry. The ISEE mentorship program is not utilized enough, on-the-job training and regular work with a training professional, in my mind, brings down the risk in accidents .

Continued on page 4



William Miller of ATF Answers “What are the Most Common Violations?”

“Are there common violations of regulations that are occurring across the U.S.? If so, is there a way for ATF to provide a list of these violations and suggestions to prevent them from occurring?” posed by Mr. Jeffrey L. Dean, TOM, CAE the Executive Director and General Counsel International Society of Explosives Engineers

Answer: Here are the most common explosives violations in Fiscal Year 2009 and suggestions for preventing them:

"Why does ATF not announce inspections in advance? What is the procedure when key personnel are not available due to these unannounced inspections?"

ATF believes that an unannounced inspection program generally provides the clearest picture of the state of compliance at the licensees'/permittees' premises. This, in turn, ensures that ATF can identify internal control weaknesses, and provide the most useful guidance to help industry members achieve and maintain compliance.

If key personnel are unavailable during an inspection, the investigator will work with the personnel

at the premises to ensure proper completion of the inspection. The investigator will typically schedule a time when such personnel are available so that any remaining portions of the inspection can be completed.

"There have been concerns that enforcement and interpretation of a regulation varies by investigator. While we understand the difficulties in achieving 100% uniformity, what actions has ATF taken to insure uniform enforcement and interpretation of regulations and what should one do if he finds conflict in the investigator request?"

We provide comprehensive training to our investigators shortly after hiring, and have provided an advanced explosives training course for investigators for over 10 years.

ATP's Explosives Industry Programs Branch (EIPB) is the primary contact for technical explosives regulatory questions and issues. This branch responds to questions from ATF personnel and industry members; publishes the ATF Explosives Industry Newsletter; and advises ATF field divisions — through designated

points of contact in each division — of new or unique issues and determinations.

Any industry member who disagrees with an investigator's findings should first contact the investigator's Area Supervisor. If this does not resolve the issue, the industry member should contact the Director of Industry Operations for the local field division.

"ATF investigators have provided people with examples of formatting the required Daily Summary of Magazine Transactions. The examples are varied on information that needs to be included. While no specified format is required we would like ATF to review the attached Daily Summary of Magazine Transactions to determine if it is in compliance with regulations."

The sample DSMT you attached (also enclosed with this letter) provides all the information required under 27 C.F.R. § 555.127. Therefore, a licensee or permittee could use this format for their DSMT.

Look for more answers in our next issue!

The Pacific Northwest Chapter is here for you the blaster. The PNW chapter is dedicated to enhance safety in the use of explosives and help create better public and governmental relations. The chapter is here to help the blaster stay current on regulations, education and the advancement of technology. So it is important to participate now even with the economy the way it is in the Northwest.

Canadian Chapter Conference continued

Continued from page 1.

Ron Elliot, President of the ISEE, talked about what the ISEE is up to, including the challenges of bringing the new and experienced blasters together to better the profession of blasting. He also discussed ISEE communication program focused on the public perception in the world of blasting. On the ISEE website the Blasters Tool Box has a wealth of information from A to Z.

Explosives Regulation Modernization. Ron Boulay of Natural Resources Canada, discussed modernizing explosives regulations and recent magazine break ins. The break-ins are occurring with access through the roof using battery or generator powered grinders. Also in some cases thieves will wait, watch and learn your patterns in accessing your magazines. Once the pattern is obtained, they wait for

the attendant to show up and unlock the door and obtain access that way.

I do a weekly inventory and inventory at a different time each week - no pattern. One of our state regulators told me in this day and age we are targets for terrorist's activities, watch yourself.

Jon Andrews

Upcoming Events: check out the PNW ISEE Website under events:
www.iseepnw.com

Hard Work in the Summer, Pays off this Winter

The Stevens Pass ski area opened November 19th this season, the earliest opening in some time. Our crew spent all summer building a downhill mountain bike park here at the Pass.

We spent quit a bit of time pre-splitting and shooting rock benches through large boulders to maintain a smaller foot



print and shooting surface rock down to size to

manage with 2-5 ton excavators. Really interesting work dealing with surface rock, ski lifts, buildings and public. The mini size heavy equipment used could not handle a normal size blast mat so creativity was the key to holding down the fly rock. More on that later.



The Pacific Northwest Chapter had a very successful chapter seminar last April at Hood River, Oregon. Go to www.iseepnw.com for info on what happened at the seminar.

We are on the web
at:

WWW.ISEEPNW.COM

Recommended Safe Working Practices for Orica avalanche control products

Orica and its previously known entities have had a long history of developing guidelines and protocols for its products dating all the way back to the original 1959 Atlas Powder Company “Handbook of Electric Blasting” and the 1979 “Kinopak Handbook”. The development purpose for this type of education material were twofold. First, it was to be used as a teaching tool, specifically designed to teach new blasters the proper use of the specific products. Secondly, it was to be used as a protocol tool designed to provide the experienced blaster with a guideline and a refresher. The aim for these educational documents was always to develop sound written and illustrated practices to ensure the safety of the user, as well as to prevent any unintended damage or harm to people, equipment, and structures within the area of use. Simply put, it has always been the goal of Orica to provide guidelines to use its products in the safest manner possible to minimize the risk of injury to anyone or anything out-

side its designed intent.

More recently Orica has developed the general “Blasting Safety Guidelines” document consisting of Orica’s own inter-company protocols. This 25 page paperback book outlines everything from its Safety, Health & Environment policy, to blast design, loading, initiation systems, blast area security and misfire procedures. Additionally, in 2009 Orica developed the “Recommended Safe Working Practices for Orica Seismic Products” booklet. This 45 page paperback book is specifically designed to aid the seismic industry professional in the safe and proper use of the Orica seismic product line.

In 2009 Orica purchased one of its distribution partners, Intermountain West Energy. One of the reasons for this acquisition was to enable Orica’s successful entry into the Avalanche market. It was no surprise when Orica senior management requested that a “Recommended Safe Working Practices” for Orica Avalanche Products be developed. Two short years later, in the fall of 2011, this 51 page paper-

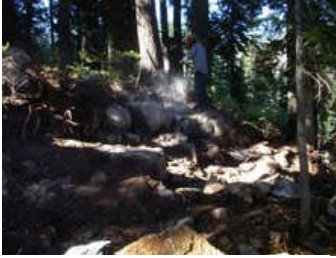
back protocol / teaching tool in a paperback book format was introduced. Like all of our publications, this is available in a book format, but this is additionally available online in a PDF version at www.órica-avtrol.com.

The uniqueness of this book as opposed to the other Orica protocol publications is that Orica is considered an expert in explosive manufacturing and explosive product technologies but it is not an expert in avalanche mitigation. Through the aid of industry professionals and associations Orica was able to develop this comprehensive “Recommended Safe Working Practices” for avalanche control products booklet. One of the team’s goals from the outset was to not overstep its expertise and use industry to guide the content. In fact, it is our hope that industry professionals take it to the next step and add to the content in future editions.

In conclusion, Orica and its predecessors have always strived to promote safety and training in the use of explosive products for its customers to en-

Disclaimer: PNW ISEE does not warrant or make any representation as to the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, advertised products, or other materials on this newsletter.

WASHINGTON L&I TRAINING INCLUDES EXPLOSIVES CLASS



Manny Villivazo, Driller, Blaster, Operator Stevens Pass setting up for a pre-split.

Jobs may be scarce these days, but the Washington Department of Labor & Industries can help you prepare for any that might come your way. L&I holds training days every few months, attendance is free, and the classes run the gamut from courses on Record Keeping to seminars on Plumbing Code.

I attended the training in Vancouver in late October. There were 5 blocks of classes, the first starting at 8 am and the last ending at 5 pm. All attendees were given a binder with helpful materials and information regarding various services. Refreshments were available, though attendees were on their own for lunch. Turnout was fair, but none of the classes I saw were overcrowded. I chose to attend 3 seminars: "Bidding, Estimating, and the Bottom Line", "Surviving as a

Subcontractor", and "Explosives in Construction in Washington."

My choices may not have been the most interesting to you, or most related to your position or business. Luckily there were 6 different classes in every block, catering to everyone from nurses to carpenters, and from employees to owners, with an emphasis placed on small businesspeople.

Probably of most interest to blasters was "Explosives in Construction in Washington."

While a majority of the classes were run by volunteers, from lawyers to electricians, this class was run by L&I's Explosives Division's own Mason Reiter.

It was a pilot class, testing the level of interest in the general application of explosives. Mason first focused on new and recently-changed regulations, and asked for input

from industry members about additional needs for regulatory changes. Then he ran through a slideshow of various sites that had been found in breach of regulations, generally storage sites. A number of explosives professionals attended this class, but attendance by folks from other industries (such as general contractors) was pretty small.

If you find yourself with the time to attend one of these L&I training days, I really recommend it. The varied classes should relate to everyone's job position or interests, and hey, it's free.

L&I has a schedule posted on their website [here](#): The next training day is February 3rd in Tumwater. There is a registration sheet, but walk ins are definitely welcomed.

Toby Wallace, Wallace Technical Blasting

REITER BUSINESS SERVICES



Our Newsletter and Website are being produced by Shari Purves-Reiter of Reiter Business Services.

If you have ideas for the next issue, please email them to Shari at: sharireiter@gmail.com or call her at: 360-402-3790.

Upcoming Events

February 3, 2012 in Tumwater Washington there will be a Free Contractor Training Day. The full day class includes a course on Washington Blasting requirements and you can obtain 8 hours credit towards your

Washington State Blasting License. Go to www.contractors.lni.wa.gov to learn more.

February 29 - March 1, 2012 - Northwest Energetic is sponsoring a Blasting Seminar in Tigard Oregon. Read more

about the great line-up of topics and get sign up information on page 7 of this newsletter.

February 2012 is the National Conference in Nashville, TN go to ISEE.org for more information.

Thank you to Aggregate Resource Industries, Inc for Sponsoring this Issue!!

For over three decades, BJ Equipment Company has provided rock drilling and blasting services throughout the Northwest United States. This year, the company transitioned to its second generation of ownership under its new name, Aggregate Resource Industries, Inc.

BJ Equipment Company, LLC began 1978 as a logging and construction equipment sales company under the leadership of its namesake and founder, Bob ("BJ") Jeremiah. In the early 1980s, BJ transitioned away from equipment sales and began distributing explosives throughout Oregon. By the mid 1980's, his company grew to become a full service rock drilling and blasting company. Although the company name was not related to rock

drilling and blasting services, it became widely recognized as a full service rock drilling and blasting company that could perform work ranging from high production quarry blasting to precision urban blasting and structure demolition.

In 1994, BJ was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis ("Lou Gehrig's Disease.") By 1998, BJ's son Kris returned from his final year of Mining Engineering studies at the University of Idaho to take over the business with BJ's wife Sandy. Although the disease took away BJ's physical ability to speak and move, it had no impact on his sharp business mind. BJ made it to the office every day and remained the principal decision maker until the day of his passing in May of 1999.

After BJ's passing, Kris and Sandy continued to operate and grow the company with BJ's vision and values as its foundation.

Within the year, the company transitioned to its new headquarters in Springfield, Oregon, underwent a branding transformation, and is now known as Aggregate Resource Industries, Inc., with affiliated drilling and blasting companies, Aggregate Resource Drilling LLC and Aggregate Resource Drilling & Blasting, Inc.

Although the next generation of leadership is under a new name and look, customers should expect the same great drilling and blasting services throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada and California that were envisioned by BJ over 30 years ago.

If you would like to **advertise** in the next Issue, please contact Debra Hanson of Northwest Energetic Services at: 1-800-423-8674 rates are available on our website at www.iseepnw.com



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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF EXPLOSIVES ENGINEERS PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER



On the Web at: www.iseepnw.com

Application for Membership

Date: _____ ISEE #: _____

Name First: _____ Last: _____

Company/
School: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____@_____ :

Company Web Address _____

I **DO NOT** want my name and company posted on the PNW ISEE Website.

Signature: _____

Chapter Dues: \$20.00/year , Student Members: \$10/year - Please make check payable to PNW ISEE

To keep costs down, we will communicate via email and on our website(www.iseepnw.com), but if you do not have access to this technology please check this box and for an additional \$5/year we will mail you the chapter newsletters.

Submit to: Treasurer, Pacific Northwest Chapter of ISEE
P.O. Box 419
Seal Rock, Oregon 97376

Mission Statement: To provide communication between all blasters, suppliers, manufactures and regulatory agencies that pertains to the use, storage and transportation of explosives. To provide education, continuing education, updates and public education for the safe and effective use of explosives.

2012 BLASTING SEMINAR

Sponsored by



**February 28th & 29th - Two Day Seminar
March 1st – MSHA Annual Refresher Training**

**At
Embassy Suites Portland
Washington Square
9000 SW Washington Square Road
Tigard, OR 97223**

Special Seminar Rate: \$109.00 plus tax. Mention the Northwest Energetic Services Blasting Seminar when you make your reservations. To reserve a room call: 503-644-4000.

Cutoff date to reserve a room is February 5, 2012. After that date, rooms will be released for general sales & will be subject to availability. Rooms are attendees' responsibility.

Instructors from the following organizations will be featured:

- Northwest Energetic Services
- Orica USA Inc.
- Mike Barber - Blasting Consultant

Fees

Two day Blasting Seminar is \$300.00 per person. The MSHA Annual Refresher Training: \$100.00 per person.

Total for three days is \$400.00 and includes:

- ✦ Course materials
- ✦ Lunch on Tues., Weds. and Thurs.
- ✦ Dinner on Wednesday

Mail registration and check to:

**Northwest Energetic Services
P.O. Box 419
Seal Rock, OR 97376
Phone: 541-563-7484
Fax: 541-563-7487**

TOPICS

Basic Review of Explosives and Explosive Properties

Powder Factor Calculations

Scaling to Adjust for Differing Site Conditions

Priming Principles

Bench Terminology and Rules of Thumb

Geology

Drilling

Trench Blasting

Bench Blast Design

Initiation Systems - Positives and Negatives of Each System

Nonelectric Shock Tube Systems – Hands on Always & Nevers

Vibration & Airblast Control

Avalanche Prevention Blasting

Specialty Blasting

8 Hour MSHA Surface Part 48 Refresher

Please register by February 15, 2012, as space is limited.



NORTHWEST ENERGETIC SERVICES

2012 Blasting Seminar

**Embassy Suites Portland Washington Square
9000 SW Washington Square Road, Tigard, Oregon**

Registration Form

**February 28 and 29 - Two Day Blasting Seminar
March 1 - MSHA Annual Refresher Training**

Sessions begin at 8 am and end at 5 pm

**\$300.00 PER PERSON FOR TWO DAY BLASTING SEMINAR
\$100.00 PER PERSON FOR MSHA ANNUAL REFRESHER TRAINING
\$400.00 TOTAL PER PERSON FOR ALL THREE DAYS**

Company Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____ Purchase Order # _____

Please print or type name(s) of people attending:

Number of people attending _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

.....

Send Seminar registration checks and forms to:

**Northwest Energetic Services
PO Box 419
Seal Rock, OR 97376
Phone 541-563-7484
Fax 541-563-7487**

Attendance is limited. Please register by February 15, 2012.