BLASTING REQUIREMENTS

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2007 California Fire Code and the California Code of Regulations, Title 19

A. The use and handling of explosives is restricted to permittees, their employees and authorized representatives, who shall be at least 21 years of age; however, persons between the ages of 18 and 21 years may be permitted to use and handle such explosives if they are under the direct personal supervision of an experienced competent permittee, employee or authorized representative over the age of 21 years.

B. Smoking shall not be permitted while explosives are being used or handled, and no one within 50 feet of explosives shall possess matches, lighters, open light or other fire or flame. Exception: The lighting of safety fuse in conjunction with approved blasting operations.

C. No person shall use or handle explosives while under the influence of intoxicating liquors, or narcotics.

D. Authorized containers or Class II magazines shall be used for taking detonators and other explosives from storage magazines to the blasting area.

E. When blasting is done in congested areas or in close proximity to a structure, railway, or highway, or any other installation that may be damaged, the blast shall be covered before firing with a mat constructed so that it is capable of preventing fragments from being thrown. Appropriate provisions (water) shall be available in brush areas to extinguish a fire that may occur as a result of blasting operations.

F. Persons authorized to prepare explosive charges or conduct blasting operations shall use every reasonable precaution, including but not limited to warning signals, flags, barricades, guards or woven mats to insure the safety of the general public.

G. Blasting operations, except by special written permission of the Chief, shall be conducted during daylight hours.

H. Whenever blasting is being conducted in the vicinity of gas, electric, water, fire alarm, telephone, telegraph or steam facilities, and flammable liquid and any similar lines, the blaster shall notify the appropriate representatives of such facilities, at least 24 hours in advance of blasting, specifying the location and intended time of such blasting. In an emergency this time limit may be waived by the Chief.

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I. Due precautions shall be taken to prevent accidental discharge of electric blasting caps from current induced by radar, radio transmitters, lightning, adjacent power lines, sand or dust storms, or other sources of extraneous electricity. These precautions shall include:

1. The suspension of all blasting operations and removal of persons from the blasting area during the approach and progress of an electric storm, or sand or dust storm.

2. The posting of signs warning against the use of mobile radio transmitters on all access roads between 1,000 feet and 3,000 feet of the blasting operations. The sign shall be in contrasting 8 inch letters on a white background and shall read "BLASTING AREA – NO RADIO TRANSMITTING". Signs shall be displayed only at time of blasting.

3. No electric blasting shall be done under overhead electric lines, or at such distance where it is possible for the blasting line to be blown in contact with any electric line unless the power in the energized line is shut-off or unless shot blow deflectors, hold downs, mats, logs, or other material are placed over the charge to confine the blast.

4. When blasting near overhead electric lines, and when placing the lead and leg wires near these lines, the lead and leg wires shall not be placed parallel to the power line, and they shall be securely anchored.

J. Before a blast is fired, the person in charge shall make certain that surplus explosive materials are in a safe place, that persons and vehicles are at a safe distance or under sufficient cover, and that a loud warning signal has been sounded. It shall also be ascertained that all entrances to the place or places where charges are to be fired are properly guarded.

K. Tools used for the opening of containers of explosive materials shall be made of non sparking materials.

L. Empty boxes and paper, plastic of fiber packing material which has previously contained explosive materials shall not be reused, and shall be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

M. Explosive materials shall not be abandoned.

N. Temporary storage for use in connection with approved blasting operations shall comply with NFPA 495.