

- Applications For Licenses And Permits
- Blasting FAQ
- Blasting Complaint Form
- Uniform Test Report
- License Testing
- Burn Injury Reporting



WHY DO I FEEL THE BLASTING?

I LIVE NEARBY, WHY WASN'T I NOTIFIED ABOUT THE BLAST?

WHY DO SOME BLASTS FEEL STRONGER THAN OTHERS?

HOW DOES THE BLASTING COMPANY PROTECT MY PROPERTY?

In Rhode Island, blasters are licensed professionals who are required by regulation or by their employers to continually obtain training. They are trained to plan, design, implement and monitor blasts. This training stresses safety in all aspects including protection of your property.

Prior to blasting, pre-blast inspections/pre-blast surveys may be offered to nearby property owners to document the existing condition of buildings and identify any sensitive structures, building components or contents. The site conditions and the inspection information are employed to design the blast to minimize effects to your property.

To ensure that the blasts are working as planned, the resulting ground and airwaves can be measured with a blasting seismograph.

WHAT DOES A SEISMOGRAPH DO?

WHAT ARE SAFE VIBRATION STANDARDS FOR BLASTING NEAR HOMES?

CAN THE DATA ON THE SEISMOGRAPH BE ALTERED?

Title 23

Health and Safety

Chapter 28.28

Explosives

R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-28.28-9

§ 23-28.28-9. Standards for use of explosives.

(a) All licensees under this chapter, when using any explosives, shall not exceed the standards of distance, amount of charge, maximum earth vibration, and maximum air shock as set forth in the United States department of the interior bureau of mines report of investigators number 8507 which is entitled "Structure Response and Damage Produced by Ground Vibration from Surface Mines Blasting", and any amendment and/or modifications thereof, which standards are incorporated herein by reference.

(b) **Blasting limits.** No licensee shall use an explosive weight in pounds per delay in excess of the formula of the distance to the nearest structure in feet, divided by the factor of seventy (70), multiplied by itself, $[W = (D/70) \text{ squared}]$, except when seismograph monitoring as set forth in subsection (c).

(c) **Seismograph required.** Each licensee shall be required to perform a seismograph test at the nearest structure to the blast prior to and during any blasting that would exceed the limits as set forth in subsection (b).

(d)(1) **Seismic limits.** At the structure nearest to the blast, the peak particle velocity in any direction at frequencies between 2.5 and 10 Hertz shall not exceed 0.5 inches per second, and at each frequency, f , greater than 10 Hertz, the peak particle velocity shall not exceed $0.05f$ inches per second up to a maximum of 2 inches per second. In addition, at the nearest structure no air-shock (sound) reading shall exceed one hundred and thirty-four (134) decibels using a 0.1-Hz, high-pass system, or exceed one hundred and thirty-three (133) decibels using a 2-Hz high-pass system or exceed one hundred and twenty-nine (129) decibels using a 5-Hz or 6-Hz high-pass system.

(2) If the licensee is blasting within the allowed limits as dictated under subsection (b), but is found in excess of the seismic limits of this subsection, the licensee shall reduce the amount of explosives per delay, or adjust the operation to comply with the limits as dictated by this subsection.

History of Section.

P.L. 1979, ch. 313, § 2; P.L. 1994, ch. 120, § 1.

Title 23

Health and Safety

Chapter 28.28

Explosives

R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-28.28-32

§ 23-28.28-32. Bond for blasting operations.

- (a) The applicant for a permit to possess or to use explosives shall file a bond with the state fire marshal in the penal sum of not less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), running to the state, with sureties approved by the state fire marshal, and with such conditions as the state fire marshal shall reasonably deem necessary and for such additional penal sums as the state fire marshal shall determine to be necessary to cover the losses, damages, or injuries that might ensue to persons or property by reason thereof.
- (b) In addition to the requirement of section (a), prior to the use of explosives for demolition or prior to the issuance of a demolition permit, the local building inspector may require the applicant to file a bond with the locality in such amount, with such sureties and upon such conditions, as the local building inspector may reasonably deem necessary.
- (c) Any person may recover on such bonds as described in this section for injury to his or her person or property.

History of Section.

P.L. 1979, ch. 313, § 2; P.L. 1994, ch. 120, § 1; P.L. 1997, ch. 326, § 91.

Title 23

Health and Safety

Chapter 28.28

Explosives

R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-28.28-37

§ 23-28.28-37. Notice to adjoining landowners.

Prior to the commencement of blasting operations, any person, firm, corporation, or other entity that is regulated pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall notify the owner or owners of record of any improved real property within five hundred (500') feet, as measured from the nearest borehole to the closest improved real property, of an intended blast or detonation, excluding road, bridge, utility, and public works construction, no less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the blast or detonation.

History of Section.
P.L. 1999, ch. 414, § 1.