

The Blast Report

Newsletter of the Connecticut Valley Chapter of the
International Society of Explosives Engineers

Spring 2010

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Since 9/11/01 our industry has been held over the barrel.



Message from the President

The International Society of Explosives Engineers was formed in 1974 as a professional society dedicated to promoting the safety, security and the controlled use of explosives in mining, quarrying, construction, manufacturing, and many other peaceful uses of explosives. The Society now claims more than 4,600 members from 90 countries with 34 chapters in the US Canada and South America, and is recognized as a world leader providing explosives technology, education, information, and promoting public understanding of the benefits of explosives.

The Connecticut Valley Chapter was formed late in the 1980's and was well received by both the blasting industry and regulatory authorities. The Chapter promoted knowledge and a free exchange of information between industry and regulators and the communities outside of our blast sites benefited. Membership peaked in the mid 1990's at over 200, and dinner programs were well attended.

Since 9/11/01 our industry has been held over the barrel. The first wave came as the response to our nation's homeland security initiative, costly, restrictive but probably necessary. The second wave has come as a result of the banking crisis and economy. There have been very few new hires, in our industry in the last eight years. And interest in the chapter has waned.

The new decade will bring more challenges to our industry. A higher level of specialization and training will be required of all employees. Heightened environmental oversight of earth, water and air on site, stricter project specifications, pay limits, and upcoming regulation are all coming down the pike.

Through friendships formed at chapter functions, and knowledge gained from both the International Society's conferences and publications and the Chapter's presentations and training, you will be a better-prepared member of Connecticut's explosives industry.

Be safe, be fair, and pray for some work,

- Bill Schappert

Chapter Dinner Meeting – Friday June 4, 2010

At Sorrento's on the Green, Rocky Hill, CT - Social hour 6:30, Dinner 7:00

Connecticut Valley Chapter of the International Society of Explosive Engineers

A newsletter distributed to chapter members, industry officials and regulatory agencies working in conjunction with the explosives industry, the ISEE-CT newsletter welcomes requests for topics, and invites readers' letters and other contributions that relate to drilling blasting, seismology and explosives engineering. Please forward mail to the editor at:

158 Sebethe Drive
Cromwell, CT 06416

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This material is prepared by professionals and is designed to provide information only regarding the subject matter covered. It is not to be construed as a legal or technical advice or opinion on a specific fact or circumstance. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, you should seek the services of a professional. The contents are intended for general information purposes only

Project Profile – Ordnance & Explosives Remediation, Inc.

A crackle comes over the radio and the last guard reports that his position is "all clear". The master EOD looks to the blaster in charge and in a no-nonsense manner says, "The range is clear, fire when ready". With that, the blaster scans the blast area one last time from his blasting shelter attaches the leads to his blasting machine, calmly recites "fire in the hole" and fires the blast.

From the bunker some 150 feet distant comes a muffled "crack", sand bags jump some 10 feet in the air, shreds of sand bags and sand rain gently in an area immediately surrounding the bunker. Three more 37-millimeter shells have been rendered to scrap.

This isn't a military operation from the Iraq war, a cleanup in Afghanistan or even a lost scene from the recent movie The Hurt Locker. It could be in a town near you, here in New England.

Recently Connecticut blaster, Mike Harmon worked with Tom Simmons, of Ordnance & Explosives Remediation, Inc. (OER) of Cohasset, MA on unexploded ordnance (UXO) removal project here in southern New England. Mike is a seasoned quarry and construction blaster. Tom is a graduate of the Naval EOD School in Indian Head, MD with over 20 years experience working EOD in the U.S. Navy and private sector. OER and other UXO contractors travel a great deal and require the assistance of local explosives vendors. Mike and his employer collaborated with OER to provide explosives logistics required of OER's remediation of the site.

The work to be done on an UXO site starts with a geophysical investigation. The purpose of the investigation is to record geophysical data on all subsurface anomalies in a given area, and then select only those anomalies that resemble UXO/OE.

Typically, UXO targets identified by the investigation are verified by their excavation and recovery. Tools at the EOD Tech's disposal include, magnetometers, GPS systems, ground penetrating radar, remote control backhoes, camera systems, and the bomb suit. Larger UXO may be prepared for a controlled blast on site or removed to a remote location. Smaller UXO may be gathered catalogued and stored for destruction at a later date.

Mike and Tom's recent assignment was on a rainy day in November, and involved the destruction of a number of 37, 47 and 57-millimeter rounds. Tom started by adding up the total explosives weight of the charges to be shot and calculating the safe distance required by the EOD manual. Then he doubled it, and removed any non-essential personnel from the area.

Tom and Mike then dug a small pit within the confines of the bunker, and created an enclosure with a plywood roof completely covered by sand bags. One, two or three shells were taped in direct contact with a one-pound pound cast booster, initiated with an electric detonator. The

Ordnance & Explosives Remediation, Inc. (continued)

charge was then placed in the dugout, covered with more sand bags and the crew prepared to blast.

The void around the charge helps to lessen the destructive force the plywood and sandbags contains any shrapnel from the shells. All debris is gathered and inspected by the EOD for any explosive residue

Munitions had been stored and tested on this site since the early 1900's and UXO discovered on site were from the WWI era. One casing had markings indicating it was manufactured in 1916. Surprisingly, a high percentage of OE detonated, when primed with the one-pound booster. The project went as planned, all the UXO/OE had been rendered safe, and there were no complaints from nearby neighbors.

OER is a Service-Disabled, Veteran-Owned small business offering a full suite of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) services. The firm was originally formed in September 2000 by three individuals with many years of experience as active duty military explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) officers, civilian unexploded ordnance (UXO) project managers, and environmental and geophysical project managers. They provide geophysical investigations and UXO services throughout the United States.

In a 2003 report, the Defense Science Board stated that the unexploded ordnance (UXO) clean-up problem is a very large-scale undertaking involving 10 million acres of land at some 1400 sites in the United States. UXO contracting is a relatively new industry, having started in the 1980's and until recently was comprised of 100% ex-military EOD personnel. The Military's Base Realignment and Closure initiative starting in 1988, and the EPA's effort to commercialize former munitions testing grounds should keep these contractors busy for many years to come.



Preparing the bunker



Ready to fire



Master EOD

News from Cleveland

The International Society of Explosives Engineers has partnered with JobTarget to create a new full service online Career Center. The Career Center focuses on assisting job seekers in the explosives industry.

Job Seekers, 21 years and older (or a member of an ISEE Student Chapter) can post their resumes anonymously and only send their contact information to the employers whose opportunities they are interested in. Job Seekers will have access to search all job postings, as well as an entire library of career-related articles. New jobs that match a designated search criteria will be emailed directly to you by creating a Job Alert.

Employers will gain access to active and passive job seekers. Employers can search resumes for free and only pay for the candidates who are interested in the opportunity available within their company. More info at <http://isee.org/FPcareercenter.htm>.

Chapter News

Thanks to our latest Paid members

Jason Bernstein, FM
Domenick Caratozzolo
Gary Disco
Karen A. Facey, FM
H. Lister Johnson
Andrew Nagy
Bill Peterson
Donald Scheck
William Scheck
Bill Britton
Bob Britton



Construction Management Club



Like the Phoenix rising from the ashes of 2009 economy here comes the Connecticut Valley Chapter of the International Society of Explosives Engineers. Now more than ever the "old dogs" need to pool together to promote safety, security, regulatory compliance and educate new members and society as a whole to the important roll of explosives technology in manufacturing and construction.

On April 7th board members were invited to a meeting of the **Central Connecticut State University's Construction Management Club**. With over 100 members the club promotes the study of construction, the professional character of the construction industry and practices, and communication between student members and contractors. The evening's program included a presentation by CSI (no not the TV show), The Construction Standards Institute with a review of how construction standards are written.

We met with Jacob Kovel, PH.D., P.E., Chair of Manufacturing & Construction Management Department, and offered our expertise by way of basic explosives safety training and review of blast economics, performance, and rock crushing with an emphases on local blasting projects. Kovel will speak with the student leadership of the club to schedule a joint meeting with our Chapter and the Construction Management Club in the fall of this year.

Former Chapter president Ric Hosley, spoke recently with Jeff Hermanson, blaster-in-charge at the **Crazy Horse Memorial** in the Black Hills of South Dakota. This Fall Jeff plans to address the Chapter regarding controlled drilling and blasting techniques and sculpture at the Crazy Horse Memorial. For more information on this historic undertaking and how to contribute go to <http://crazyhorsememorial.org>.

The Chapter has always been a source of MSHA annual refresher training. During recent board of director meetings it was agreed that we would expand our commitment to training. This coming winter the Chapter will offer additional training. Offerings will include, **OSHA 10-hour training, First aid/CPR/AED and the I.S.E.E's Certificate Program Level 1 – Practical Blasting Fundamentals**. Eight lessons are packed with information about the basics of explosives engineering and many recommended procedures used throughout the blasting process. Version 2.0 features classroom activities; comprehensive lesson tests; and fully updated material in all lessons. The sections on initiation systems and regulation have been rewritten with more in-depth information. The overall program is ideal for those who are new to the field and for those who want a state-of-the-art update...a pathway for anyone involved with explosives to increase their knowledge and skills on a continuing basis. More information at <http://www.isee.org/FPcertificate.htm>. All classes will be offered in mid-January, in order to make available to as many members as possible.

Congratulations to **Dr. Stu Bennett** on his recent retirement from the School of Engineering and Technology at Central Connecticut State. During his 37 years of service to Central, Stu has provided countless opportunities for students to succeed and has strengthened the construction industry in Connecticut. Although he says he's retired, he told me he could be found during the day at Mizzy Construction, coordinating their Safety initiative. In addition, Bennett Construction Services will continue providing construction training for our Chapter and the Connecticut construction industry.

Blast Pix. Break out your digital camera and send us your best shot. Forward to us interesting photos and a few words describing the action. If your picture is picked you will receive a free dinner at the next Chapter event.



Korczak, Sc.
© Crazy Horse Mem. Fnd.

Industry News

Chapter members report new local blasting permit fees ranging from \$20 to \$60 for a one-month permit. Back in October the **Department of Public Safety** posted the following fee increases.

- ❖ Explosive License (new) \$200.00
- ❖ Explosive License (renewal) \$150.00
- ❖ Explosive Trucks \$100.00
- ❖ Manufacturer of Explosives \$100.00
- ❖ Transport License (lifetime license) \$50.00 no increase

On February 11, 2010 **MSHA** launched a Fatality Prevention Program, “**Rules to Live By.**” The goal is to reduce deaths and injuries from violations of frequently cited standards in fatal accident education. Independent Contractors and Mine Operators are expected to monitor the work environment continually, identify hazardous conditions, fix them and make sure they stay fixed. **Beginning on March 15, MSHA will direct enhanced enforcement** toward making sure that these conditions known to lead to death or serious injury are not present at mines. Learn more at <http://www.msha.gov> .



Annual Conference - February 6-9, 2011

The International Society of Explosives Engineers will sponsor the 37th Annual Conference on Explosives and Blasting Technique. This event will be held at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego, California.

The ISEE Conference Program Committee is issuing an industry-wide Call for Papers to be presented at the 37th Annual Conference and published in the Conference Proceedings. Further info at <http://www.isee.org> .

Call for Board Members

We're busier than a one armed paperhanger and we're looking for a few good men and women. We are currently looking for help with all of our committees. We need **YOU** to get involved and make a difference in our industry. Don't assume someone else will do it. There aren't that many of us. Don't let local regulators run you out of town and put you out of business. Come join us, band together and educate the community about the safety, the science and benefits of explosive used in industry and construction.



Chapter Contact Information

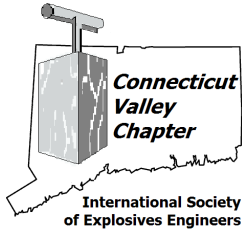
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We need your photos!

We're gathering photos for a slide show at the dinner meeting. E-mail or we can come and scan old photos at your home or business.

The old days
 Embarrass your friends
 Brag about that good job

Praise a co-worker
 Old equipment
 Blasters at play



Connecticut Valley Chapter, Society of Explosives Engineers
158 Sebethe Drive
Cromwell, CT 06416
Telephone: 860-635-1190
Fax: 860-632-0621

Membership Application

Name: _____

Company: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Is this a business or residence address? (please circle)

E-mail address: _____

Contact phone: _____

Do you prefer Chapter correspondence via e-mail, postal service or both? (please circle)

Are you a member of the International Society of Explosives Engineers? (Y/N)

If so, member # _____

Are you a licensed blaster (Y/N), If so, in which jurisdictions are you licensed?

New or Renewal membership (please circle)

Annual dues are \$30.00

Annual Corporate dues are \$100.00 (includes business card advertisement in newsletter)

Please remit to: Connecticut Valley Chapter ISEE
 158 Sebethe Drive
 Cromwell, CT 06416
 Attn: Mary Jane Lynch

**Connecticut Valley Chapter
of the International Society of Explosives Engineers
Spring Dinner Meeting**

Is pleased to present

TFC Marc Lamberty
Office of the State Fire Marshal

At

Sorrento on the Green
*600 Cold Spring Road
Rocky Hill, CT 06063*



On Friday, June 4, 2010
*Social 6:30 p.m.
Dinner 7:00 p.m.*

*Admission - \$34.00 pp pre-registration only same price members & prospective members
All industry members are welcome*

Keep this top portion and mail bottom stub with payment

name: _____ *company:* _____

street: _____ *city, state:* _____

please mail registration form and payment (one form per person) to:
*Connecticut Valley SEE
158 Sebethie Drive
Cromwell, CT 06416*

*For further info call Mary Jane Lynch at 860-828-9895 or 860-635-1190 or fax 860-632-0621
Bill Schappert at 860-818-3161*

Place your ad here

Directions to Sorrento on the Green

I-91 north or south to exit 23. Off ramp turn west on West St. Take first left on CT RT 3 south follow ¼ mile. Turn right on Cold Spring Rd. Follow ½ mile to 600 Cold Spring Rd, Rocky Hill, CT. Sorrento on the Green is on the left at the golf course.

Connecticut Valley Chapter
Society of Explosives Engineers
158 Sebethe Drive
Cromwell, CT 06416

Blast Pix – Spring 2010



George Moriarty