

CITY OF SHELTON

INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE

“BLASTING IN OUR TOWN”

The following is a brief overview to help Shelton residents have a better understanding of blasting operations in our community. If you have any questions or concerns not addressed in this brochure please contact the Shelton Fire Marshals office at 924-1555 (extension 340).

Who regulates blasting in Shelton?

- Connecticut General Statutes including, but not limited, to Chapter 29-349 outline statutory requirements for blasting operations in Connecticut. The statutes are enforced within Shelton by the local Fire Marshal. The City of Shelton requires that if blasting is going to occur in your neighborhood within 500 feet of your home you will be notified at least 9 days prior to the start of blasting. State Regulations Sections 29-349-106 to 29-349-378 cover specific regulatory provisions related to blasting operations and are also enforced by the local Fire Marshal.

Where to find further information over the internet about blasting guidelines?

- The following link <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/pub/Chap541.htm#Sec29-349> will take you to a complete description on blasting regulations in Connecticut. You can also visit <http://www.ct.gov/dps/site> and click on the State Fire Marshal link for further information or inquiries.

Who can conduct blasting operations?

- Only blasting companies licensed by the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety, are permitted to use, transport or store explosives. Blasting companies are companies who must document to the State of Connecticut their experience, competency and proficiency in the field of blasting and shall submit to such examination and tests as the State of Connecticut may prescribe. Please note, however, that incidents may still occur even with strict licensing guidelines when dealing with explosives. Safety precautions must be taken and awareness of the blasting operations benefits everyone.

What is a pre-blast survey?

- A pre-blast survey is defined a visual inspection, usually photographed, of the foundation and other interior/exterior parts of homes or other structures to document their condition prior to any blast. The blasting company may or may not offer a survey of your property. If a pre-blast survey is offered by the blaster please be advised that you probably will not receive a copy of it. You may want to obtain and pay for your own pre-blast survey by an independent inspector that you can keep for your own records in case it is needed if blasting damages were to occur. Please contact your homeowner's insurance company and/or the State Fire Marshal's Office at 860-685-8380 for more information about companies that provide pre-blast surveys.

Why should you allow or obtain a pre-blast survey?

- For your own claim protection. A pre-blast survey documents conditions before blasting is done and will aid in the process of damage claims. The blaster cannot start blasting until 9 days after you are mailed or given notification that blasting will occur. Documented proof of pre-blast conditions compared to post blast conditions may assist you greatly should a need for a claim arise.

Will my well be tested?

- The City of Shelton Fire Marshal requires that wells within 300 feet of a blasting site may be tested for clarity and purity before any blasting takes place, but same is not mandated. Property owners may be contacted by the blasting firm or a pre-blast survey firm about well tests prior to any blasting. There is no State requirement that a well test has to be offered. Please contact your insurance company for further information on well testing including flow rates and your homeowner's options.

What to do if you think you have damage from blasting and how to file a complaint?

- **Immediately** contact the Shelton Fire Marshal's office. You should also contact your own insurance carrier. You may file a complaint either by phone or in person at the Fire Marshal's office on an official complaint form, which is also available on the city website, www.cityofshelton.org. The Fire Marshal will then forward your complaint to the blasting company who is the responsible party. You should expect a visit or call from the blasting company or their representative regarding your complaint. If you have not heard from the blasting company or their representative in a reasonable time period, please re-contact the Shelton Fire Marshal.

Will homeowner's insurance cover damage from blasting?

- It depends on your policy. Please contact your own insurance company for further information on your coverage. You can also contact the State of Connecticut Department of Insurance at (860) 297-3854 for further information.

What to expect when blasting is occurring in your neighborhood?

- Prior to the actual blast you will hear 3 long warning sounds (a whistle or horn). Within a few minutes you may feel ground vibrations and/or air shock vibrations accompanied by sounds equivalent to fireworks. After the blast you will hear 2 short warning signals which mean the blast is over. The warning will be repeated for every blast.

What is a seismograph?

- A seismograph measures and records ground vibration levels during a blast. It is typically placed near the structure that is the closest to the blast site. The blasting company may ask to place a seismograph machine on your property. The machine will not cause any damage to your property. Seismograph measurements are required by the Fire Marshal. If you have further questions about seismographs please contact the Shelton Fire Marshal's office.

What does the Shelton Fire Marshal do to monitor blasting?

- Among other duties, the duties of the Shelton Fire Marshal include plan review, issuing blasting permits and overseeing the use, transportation and storage of explosives. The Fire Marshal may conduct inspections of blasting sites and blast records to insure that all statutes and regulations are being followed. The Shelton Fire Marshal does not determine damage claims.

What kind of safety precautions should I take to protect my family during blasting?

- The blaster will notify you if any specific precautions need to be taken. As a general rule stay away from windows and stay inside your home during the blasting. Secure any fragile items that might fall or be damaged as a result of blasting vibrations. Do not approach the blast site at any time and obey all instructions of the blaster should you be in close proximity to the site. If you have any safety related questions contact the Shelton Fire Marshal's Office.

Who can I contact with questions relating to blasting?

- For all inquiries regarding blasting operations call the Shelton Fire Marshal @ 924-1555 ext. 340. If you need to leave a message your call will be promptly returned. You can also contact the State Fire Marshal @ 860-685-8380. Again, specific insurance questions should be discussed with your insurance company or broader questions may be directed to the State Insurance Commission at (860) 297-3854. The City of Shelton website www.cityofshelton.org also has links to other information which you may find useful.

THIS BROCHURE IS ONLY INTENDED TO PROVIDE A BASIC OVERVIEW OF BLASTING OPERATIONS/INFORMATION WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY. IT DOES NOT COVER ALL DETAILS OF LICENSING, PERMITTING OR BLASTING OPERATIONS. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW-UP WITH THE PROFESSIONALS, WITHIN THEIR FIELD OF EXPERTISE, SHOULD YOU HAVE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR IF ADDITIONAL DETAILED INFORMATION IS NEEDED.