



# ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention Office

1020 N. Hudson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Arlington, VA 22201

TEL 703.228.4644 [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us)

FAX 703.228.4655



## **Blasting Permit Procedural Guideline**

All operations using explosives and/or blasting materials are required to have a permit issued by the Arlington County Fire Prevention Division. Authorization to conduct blasting activities require compliance with all applicable provisions of the Arlington County and Statewide Fire Prevention Codes, the current edition of National Fire Protection Standard 495, the provisions of this permit and any other requirements issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

1. The applicant shall ensure the blasting company has in place a five million dollar (\$5,000,000) insurance policy, and that the insurance policy is in effect at the time of the commencement of the operations or activities authorized by the permit, and remains continuously in effect until all permitted and related operations or activities are completed.
2. A pre-blast survey shall be performed on each structure located within a minimum of one hundred and fifty (150) feet and any well located within a minimum of two hundred and fifty (250) feet of the blast site. Written confirmation that the pre-blast survey has been done shall be maintained by the blasting contractor. Documentation consisting of a written acknowledgement that the survey has been performed (or declined by any adjacent property owner) and a map depicting the above referenced one hundred and fifty (150) and two hundred and fifty (250) feet radius, shall be provided to the fire code official at the time of the Explosive Use Site Permit Inspection meeting. Requests for access to structures for pre-blast surveys shall be made by certified mail to the last known address of the owner(s) of any structures located within the aforesaid ranges. If permitted by the owner(s), said surveys shall be conducted to determine the pre-blast conditions of these structures. A minimum of fourteen (14) day notice shall be provided for the scheduling of the pre-blast survey.
3. All structures located within a minimum of three hundred (300) feet of the blast site shall be notified of the upcoming blasting ten (10) days prior to blasting and no blasting shall occur until such notice has been given. Such notification shall be made by certified mail to the last known address of the owner(s) of any structures located within the aforesaid range.
4. Armed and law enforcement trained Site Security shall be established and maintained from 6 hours prior to the arrival of any explosives, initiators, blasting caps, ect on the site, and shall be maintained 24 hours a day until the conclusion of blasting and/or removal of the afore mentioned materials.
5. The permit holder shall ensure notifications of blasting and any associated activities (example: UAV, or drone site survey) shall be made to all applicable organizations, including but not limited to the FAA, Metro, ACPD, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.
6. No explosives may be stored in Arlington County. Only those explosives needed to conduct operations for one (1) work shift may be on the site and must be stored in a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms approved storage day box.
7. All shots must be recorded and an accurate inventory of blasting agent and/or explosives must be maintained at the site. Any and all loss of blasting agent and/or explosives must be immediately reported to the Arlington County Fire Marshal's Office.
8. Notify the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) at 703-558-2222 prior to or at the time explosives arrive on site.
9. Warning signs shall be posted on adjoining streets and in the blast area.
10. Pre-blast and all clear signals shall be sounded for each shot.

### ***MISSION***

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11. Obtain and maintain a current “Miss Utility” ticket for the blast site.
12. If utilities are present in the blast area, notify the company of intended activities.
13. Remove all unauthorized personnel and vehicles prior to blasting.
14. Mats and/or sufficient cover material shall be used to prevent uncontrolled projectiles.
15. Seismograph readings will be taken before, during and after all shots at locations approved by the code official.
16. In conjunction with the Arlington County Police Department, all traffic shall be stopped on all adjacent roadways during each shot (as necessary based on worksite configuration).
17. Vehicles may not be parked within three hundred (300) feet of any occupied structure except at the blasting site.
18. The permit holder is required to notify adjacent residences and businesses of impending blasts.
19. All complaints received by a blaster, blasting company, agency, person in control or other responsible party shall be immediately reported by telephone to the fire code official and the Arlington Emergency Communications Center
20. No burning of storage boxes shall take place on site.
21. The powder truck shall be operated only by a ATF permitted possessor of explosives. A Virginia Certified Blaster must accompany the powder truck while enroute to and from the Job Site.
22. Any vehicle transporting explosive materials, explosives, or blasting agents within the County shall be required to obtain a vehicle permit from the fire code official. The permit shall be valid for six (6) months and shall be revoked for failure to maintain the vehicle in a safe operating condition compliant with DOTn 49 CFR. Permits required shall be as listed in Section 107.2 of the Arlington County Code.
23. Operators of vehicles transporting explosives within Arlington County shall immediately notify the fire code official upon experiencing a mechanical breakdown, accident, or being otherwise unable to move the vehicle.
24. All explosives and blasting caps shall be secured while on site. Keys shall be removed from the ignition and cab doors locked. An ATF permitted possessor of explosives shall be with the vehicle at all times.
25. All blasting caps shall be covered prior to any blasting.
26. All spent materials shall be removed from the site daily.
27. The permit shall be maintained on the job site.
28. All records required by this permit shall be retained by the permit holder for twelve (12) months after the date of the blasting operation and shall be furnished to the Arlington County Fire Marshal’s Office upon request.

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