



November 6, 2008

Effective January 1, 2009, as provided in Section 107.1 of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC), 2006 Edition and as a condition of permit issuance, all persons or companies in possession of a permit to USE explosives issued by the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) shall provide a day's notice - 24 hour notification - to the SFMO prior to any and all planned explosive shots. (If possible, notification of more than 24 hours is encouraged.)

A planned shot is one that can be normally construed as having forethought and scheduling.

This day's notice (24-hour notification) prior to the use of explosives is not required when the use of explosives is done on an emergency basis. Examples of the emergency use of explosives can be illustrated as follows:

- (1) For immediate replacement of utility poles damaged from vehicular crashes or storm damage;
- (2) The clearing of rockslides from roadways on an emergency basis;
- (3) Other circumstances and situations having a sense of urgency and have to be accomplished without delay.

Notification is still to be made to the SFMO about the emergency use of explosives within 24 hours after the emergency has passed.

Failure to provide the above notification will be viewed and treated as a violation of the SFPC.

Notification to the SFMO can be accomplished by one of the following methods (in order of preference):

1. Provide the required information by email to: statefiremarshal@vdfp.virginia.gov . (This is most preferred method since it provides the permit holder documented proof of notification.)
2. Provide the required information by FAX to 804-371-3444. (This is next preferred method since it provides an opportunity for the permit holder to obtain a *confirmation of transmission* from the sending fax machine.)
3. Call 804-612-7266. Tell the receptionist you're providing the required notification for the use of explosives. If voice mail comes on during or after normal business hours, including weekends and holidays, leave a message on voice mail with the required information. (By using this method the permit holder will have to develop their own method of providing proof of notification.)

Whether notification is made by email, fax or by telephone, the required information is as follows:

1. The date and approximate time of the planned explosive shot. (The SFMO recognizes that explosive shots don't always occur at the planned time, sometimes it can occur late or it can be earlier.)
2. The SFMO USE Permit Number under which the shot will be conducted and the certification number of the blaster in charge.
3. The address or location of the planned explosive shot including the name of the city, county or town in which the shot will take place.
4. Whether or not the explosives USE was under emergency conditions and nature of the emergency. (Brief, essential description only.)
5. The name of the person providing the notification.
6. A phone number for the person making the notification.