



STAUNTON VIRGINIA **FIRE & RESCUE** **Fire Marshal's Office**

Phone: (540) 332-3720

Fax: (540) 332-3719

Perry W. Weller
Deputy Fire Marshal

302 Grubert Ave.
Staunton, VA 24401

What to Expect After Possible Damage From Blasting Has Occurred

If you have a complaint about blasting, please contact the Staunton Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) at 540-332-3720.

The regulations for the use and storage of explosives are contained in the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) which may be enforced by the local fire official.

1. Please be aware of the following:
The SFMO may conduct an investigation at the construction or blasting site for violations of the SFPC. In the absence of an egregious and eminently harmful violation of the SFPC, the SFMO does not have the authority to stop or suspend a blasting operation. You may hear blasting activity after the incident has been reported, during the investigation, and/or the blasting company has taken steps to prevent further incidents/complaints.
2. The SFPC regulates the amount of explosives that a blaster can use in relation to the closest structure, or a seismograph may be used to ensure the blasts do not exceed legal limits.
3. If a blast causes property damage or personal injury or death, in addition to other appropriate and required notifications, the blaster is required to report to the SFMO.
4. Construction companies who use explosives must have duly issued permits, carry a bond insurance, blasters must be certified as a "Blaster" by the Commonwealth of Virginia and be registered with the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR). The SFMO does not have the authority to order or compel the contractor to pay a property owner for damaged property.
5. While violations of the SFPC can be treated as a criminal matter, the financial recovery for damage sustained from a blasting incident is treated as a civil matter. It is possible that your insurance company or private attorney may be able to recuperate financial loss from a contractor.

"Saving Lives Through Fire Prevention!"