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# Dust Suppression & Seismic Drilling

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## CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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In response to concerns raised by B.C. Worker's Compensation Board we would like to remind all members of two of the Best Practices and Bulletins issued by the CAGC.

**“Dust Suppression on Seismic Drilling Rigs”** is a “Best Practice” developed to protect seismic drillers and helpers from the effects of prolonged inhalation of silica dust. As a reminder for the most part the seismic industry has addressed the dust created by heli-portable seismic drilling rigs well. However with seismic drilling operations other than heli-portable there are still concerns. Air drilling capabilities are now being used on “enviro-drills” and these rigs can generate silica dust (dependant on drilling conditions). Health hazard exposure is required to be monitored and assessed by the employer. Please remember that the remaining methods of drilling are still obligated under the same regulations as heli-portable drilling operations.

The **“Loading Explosives Safely”** Bulletin (2000-15) is a set of safe work procedures that were adopted by the CAGC in August of 2000. Specific loading procedures are of importance given that loading a shot hole can be hazardous if done incorrectly (second in nature only to priming the charge). BC WCB has stated that they prefer the lowering of a primed charge down a shot hole by way of the loading pole method. Approximately ninety (90) percent of the seismic shot holes loaded are done so by employing this method. The other ten (10) percent is done by way of lowering the charge down the shot hole with the detonator leg wires. This ten percent (10) is in heli-portable operations where heli-portable air drills are used. Each set of “duplex” leg wire are rated to a tensile strength of sixty pounds (60). If the charge is double capped the two “duplex” leg wires have a tensile strength of one hundred and twenty pounds (120). It is recommended that when possible use the loading pole method when lowering a charge to depth. However in cases where this is not possible lowering by way of the detonator leg wires is acceptable provided that the leg wires are properly secured to the charge and lowered in the proper manner (ref: P.I.T.S. Seismic Blaster's course).

The concerns over dust suppressions and the safe loading of explosives have not disappeared. These practices and procedures were developed to give members the information necessary to ensure their workers are being protected from some of the inherent dangers of geophysical work.

Please revisit them to ensure your Company is doing all it can to be in compliance.