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# Electronic Detonators and Static Electricity

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CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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The purpose of this bulletin is to remind the membership that the safe handling of electric detonators is imperative when conducting any work that entails the use of electric detonators.

In the recent past, there have been several reports where geophysical seismic drilling personnel have experienced static discharges when conducting shot hole drilling. Upon further investigation it was found that the drilling personnel were wearing clothing made of synthetic materials, rubber boots and rubber gloves. The workers attire coupled with the time of year (fall) drastically increased the chances of static buildup and discharge.

As per the CAGC 'Seismic Safety Blasters' course it is important to practice the following:

- Wear only natural fibre clothing. Synthetic outerwear, such as polyester, helps generate static electricity;
- Ground yourself frequently by touching clean metal surfaces. Always do this just before handling detonators. (Note: Do not ground to a drill with rubber tires unless you are positive that the drill is grounded);
- Avoid friction. Never let wires slide through your hands; lower them hand over hand;
- Never put detonators in your pocket;
- Never throw leg wires; they could pick up static charges in the air;
- Never handle detonators during severe dust, snow or electrical storms.

In addition, always ensure that the detonator wires are shunted.

It is important to remember that we are entering into a high risk period where snow storms, low humidity, cold weather and having to wear warm clothing all contribute to an increased risk factor.

Remember to circulate this alert to your field personnel.