



Drilling Practices

CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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The following information is not a definitive guide to government legislation and does not release users of this document from their responsibilities under applicable legislation.

We have recently met with WorkSafe BC and they wish to pass along concerns experienced in the seismic industry this summer as it related to Drilling and in particular some of the Heli-Drill Operations:

- OHS Regulation in all provinces requires Dust Suppression. Dust levels from a drilling operation located in a rocky area is 10 X the human safety level even with a respirator. The CAGC developed best practices a couple of years ago dealing with this issue in which companies had developed proprietary engineered solutions. It appears that a number of drills have removed these controls. Please see the CAGC website for the Best Practice. This is an automatic job shut-down issue for OHS;
- Similar legislation exists for noise controls (also outlined in the CAGC Best Practice). Some drills have removed the larger mufflers and replaced with smaller mufflers. These are in non-compliance and orders will be issued if found in the field;
- Explosive Magazines – a reminder about Basic Magazine Cleanliness – the interior must be kept clean at all times and NOT be used for garbage;
- Smoking – NO SMOKING in the vicinity of explosive magazines;
- Fire Tools – The BC Wildfire Act requires crews to have fire tools on site in case of a forest fire. WorkSafe BC requires that individuals on the crew must be trained in their use. This is a 1-Day course offered through the local colleges – S100 Series;
- Helicopter Long Lines used for hauling – there is a concern that the inner core of cables will break in time given the constant spinning of a weighted load. An inner core break will not be detected before an accident occurs. It is recommended that a swivel swing be used below the hook in order to stop the cable itself from spinning. This is an engineered control used by large construction cranes. As well as it is located below the hook it is not controlled by Transport Canada;
- Prime Contractors – Please ensure your contractors are following both the law + best practices recognized in the industry.

For more information please contact the CAGC.