



# SAFETY ALERT

December 19, 2006

## Detonating Dynamite Shot Holes

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On December 19, 2006 a seismic blaster was injured detonating a patterned shot point. Evidence indicates the blaster was less than the required 30 meters from the shot point. One of the two patterned holes was drilled to a shallow depth of less than 4 meters. This shallow hole blew out and the debris struck the worker in the face.

The shot point had a total of four holes drilled and loaded. Two of the holes were drilled to the required 9 meter depth; the other two holes were drilled to a 4 meter depth. The blaster's task was to detonate the 9 meter holes as part of the recording operation, then the two shallow holes to destroy the charges. Preliminary information indicates he may have hooked up to one of the regulation holes and one of the shallow holes. There was no physical evidence (extra cap wire on the surface) at the shallow holes to indicate which were shallow and which were not.

Several procedural issues as well as workers failure to follow the safe work practices led to this event. Fortunately the worker was not seriously injured; however the potential for a serious injury or even a fatality in this situation is extreme.

The following are recommended control measures to prevent reoccurrence:

**Blasters:**

- All blasters must follow industry recommend practices, including ensuring that all shots are taken with a 30 meter firing line and securing the blasting zone of 50 meters.
- Scan the area and verify with the recorder the hole depth.
- Review and understand the ERP procedures for blasting and for each project.
- Wait 30 seconds after detonation prior to approaching the hole for clean-up.

**Drillers:**

- Whenever there are multiple holes drilled and one or more are shallow, the excess cap wire is to be left on the surface, not pushed into the hole.
- All drilled holes must be accurately recorded in the drill logs. All shallow holes must be marked in the field.

***For more information please contact the CAGC***