

CHAPTER 5

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5.00 Introduction

All explosives are dangerous and must be handled and used with extreme care. The term "explosives" is defined as any chemical compound, mixture or device, which is to function by explosion, i.e., with substantially instantaneous release of gas and heat. The term "explosives" shall include, but not be limited to, blasting agents, blasting caps, electric blasting caps, detonating fuse, and projectiles. The handling and moving of explosives and the mixing of blasting agents shall be performed exclusively, by experienced personnel. Dynamite, nitroglycerine, or black powder shall not be used by Caltrans employees because of the extreme hazard involved.

Blasting operations shall neither be permitted nor required unless a competent blaster, having a valid California Blaster's License and a Caltrans Blaster's Certificate, is physically present on the site. Blasting operations shall be under the control of the licensed blaster at all times. All licensed blasters shall attend annual training to maintain their proficiency and certification.

Supervisors and licensed blasters shall be furnished copies of the Caltrans Maintenance Blasters Manual and the Construction and General Industrial Safety Orders of the Division of Industrial Relations (CAL/OSHA), referring to "Explosives." They should also be furnished copies of State and Federal regulations and local ordinances applying to use, handling, and storage of explosives. They shall periodically review the Caltrans Maintenance Blasters Manual and the Construction and General Industrial Safety Orders to assure that all applicable regulations are being followed.

5.01 Avalanche Control

Various explosive projectiles, as well as ordinary explosives, are used to control avalanches. As with ordinary blasting, a competent licensed blaster shall be physically present on site to supervise the operation.

5.02 Permit to Possess Explosives

No person shall store, handle, or transport explosives or blasting agents except under a valid permit issued by the applicable Federal, State, or local agency. Application for a permit shall be made to the appropriate issuing authority in the jurisdiction in the area of activity, i.e., chief of police or sheriff. If explosives are to be used or stored in a jurisdiction other than that of purchase, the permit shall be so endorsed by the issuing authority.