

# Cape Elizabeth Fire Department

## Policy & Procedure Manual

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**Policy:** Construction Blasting Permits

**Section:** Administration

**Policy #** 5.1

**Date Effective:** 01-01-2006

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The Chief of Department is authorized by the Town Council to issue permits for construction blasting to persons licensed, permitted and insured to perform blasting operations. The Public Safety Communications Center issues the permits on the behalf of the Chief of Department.

The Public Safety Dispatcher on duty is authorized to issue permits providing the following are complete:

1. The individual and/or Firm requesting a permit to blast must show proof of a License or permit from the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office.
2. The individual and/or Firm must provide written proof of five million U.S. Dollars in Liability Insurance is in force for the period of the permit.
  - The best way to provide this information is via a "Certificate of Insurance," and a photocopy is sufficient. Minimum data should include the Insurance Co. name, policyholder, policy number, policy dates, Policy limits, and a statement to the effect that "Blasting and use of Explosives" is covered. For those who are repeat users, a certificate can be kept on file and a new one requested only when the policy dates have expired.
  - If Proof of Insurance is not available, then a Bond deemed adequate for payment of any damages must be provided prior to issuing the permit. The Bond should have a minimum amount of one million dollars, and be presented in writing.
3. In order for a permit to be issued by this Department for the use or transportation of explosives or blasting agents, the permittee must be in compliance with Article 26 BOCA Fire Prevention Code 1987 Edition.
4. If the above are satisfied, a permit may be issued and a copy of the letter summarizing the Code and Town Requirements must be reviewed with the individual and given to him/her.
5. Permits should not be issued for more than 5 business days, and the permit should be limited to as short a period below 5 days as possible.
6. The Chief of Department should be notified by the Dispatcher of all permits issued by call to their office or through voice mail.

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## **ARTICLE 26 BOCA FIRE PREVENTION CODE 1987 EDITION.**

### **TRANSPORTING**

1. Utilize safe vehicle properly placarded
2. Have appropriate fire extinguishers available
3. Abide by all State and DOT regulations
4. No smoking within or around the vehicle
5. Vehicle shall not be left unattended at any time

### **BLASTING**

1. All operations shall be conducted during daylight hours
2. The handling and firing of explosives shall be performed by the person possessing a permit to use explosives or by employees under his direct supervision who are at least 21 years old
3. No person shall smoke while handling explosives or while in the vicinity thereof
4. No open flame light shall be used in the vicinity of explosives
5. No person shall handle explosives while under the influence of intoxicants or narcotics
6. Blaster shall notify the following prior to commencing and immediately after completing blasting operations:
  - i) Public Safety Communications Center (207-767-3323)
  - ii) Utility Companies that have facilities in the area
  - iii) Abutters within 500 feet of the area
7. Public ways must be passable at all times with at least one lane of roadway available for emergency vehicles. Notify Public Works (207-799-4151) if blasting in streets.
8. Before a blast is fired, the person in charge should make certain that all surplus explosives are in a safe place, all persons and vehicles are at a safe distance or under sufficient cover, and a loud warning signal has been sounded.
9. All blasts will be covered with mats, earth, sand, etc.

**ANY VIOLATIONS OF THE ABOVE, OR OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF TOWN ORDINANCES, COULD RESULT IN REVOCATION OF THE PERMIT AND SUBSEQUENT FINES.**