



Stafford County Fire and Rescue Department Office of the Fire Marshal

1225 Courthouse Road, PO BOX 339, Stafford, VA 22555
(540) 658-7200 · FAX (540) 658-4545 · www.staffordfirerescue.com/fm



Application Documentation and Guidelines for:

Blasting / Use of Explosives

Applicable Codes and Standards:

Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code Chapter 33 (VSFPC)
NFPA 495 Explosive Materials Code

Instructions:

Use the following instructions to complete the attached form. The Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) must be in receipt of this application not less than 10 days prior to the event for review and approval.

Line 1. Provide name of person or company applying for a permit. In the event the applicant is conducting an agricultural operation on his or her own property, provide the name of the property owner. (See block 8 and the instructions for line 8.)

Line 2. List telephone number where applicant may be reached.

Line 3 & 3b. Use a mailing address the applicant can expect the quickest service. If available, provide email address and/or fax number.

Line 4. What is the physical address (location) of the permit applicant if it's different from the mailing address given. An address **MUST** be provided for the location of the event.

Line 5. List city, state and zip code for the complete mailing address.

Line 6. Provide the estimated date(s) and times for blasting. This is intended for planning purposes and the actual date/time should be coordinated with the inspecting Fire Marshal however at least 24-hour notice should be provided.

Line 7. A "designated individual" is defined as "a person in possession of a Background Clearance Card (BCC) issued by the SFMO, or is certified by the SFMO as a Blaster, ... (either of) whom are responsible for (i) ensuring compliance with state law and regulations relating to blasting agents and explosives, (ii) applying for explosives or firework permits, (iii) is at least 21 years of age, and (iv) shall demonstrate the capability to effectively communicate safety messages verbally and in writing in the English language."

The "designated individual" is to print their name and card number in the spaces provided. In accordance with VSFPC Section 3301.2.3.1, the FMO shall deny the application for permit if the application does not contain a designated individual's name and signature as representing the applicant with space provided on Line 11 for the individual's signature. Attach a photo-copy of the designated individual's card to the application. (A Blaster listed on Line 7 may also be a designated individual and may result in repetitive listing.)

► **IMPORTANT:** In accordance with SFPC Section 3301.2.3.1, if the applicant's designated individual changes or becomes no longer qualified to represent the applicant as responsible management or designated individual, the applicant shall notify the FMO on the change of status. The notice is to be made prior to the use of any explosives but in no case shall the notification occur more than seven days after the change of status and shall provide the name of another designated individual. The FMO may revoke or require the re-issuance of a permit based on a change of permit conditions or status or inability to provide another designated individual.

Line 7. Section 3307.1 of the SFPC allows only those persons who are "certified by the State FMO as a restricted or unrestricted blaster" or "supervised on-site by a person properly certified by State FMO as a restricted or unrestricted blaster", to engage in the use of explosives or blasting agents. List the certification numbers of the persons who the applicant is authorizing to use explosives under the permit being applied for.

Line 8. Section 3301.4.1 of the SFPC provides an exemption for “the owner of real estate parcels of five or more acres conforming to the definition of ‘real estate devoted to agricultural use’ or ‘real estate devoted to horticultural use’ in § 58.1-3230 of the Code of Virginia when blasting on such real estate” from having to be certified as a Blaster but at minimum, a BCC is still required. (See line 6 above.) Exemption from certification does not relieve the applicant from complying with other provisions of the SFPC.

NOTE: A Background Clearance Card (BCC) does not represent the card holder as a Certified Blaster but does represent successful completion for compliance with § 27-97.2 of the Code of Virginia and the required criminal history records check.

Line 9. Pursuant to § 27-97.2 of the Code of Virginia any person, as an individual or as a representative of a company, who applies for a permit to manufacture, store, use, handle or sell explosives shall not have been convicted of any felonious act, or has had their rights restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority. Please indicate whether you as the applicant have ever been convicted of a felonious act.

Lines 10 through 14: Self-explanatory. Submit the completed application to the address listed at the bottom of the application. Please allow at least 10 days for processing.

An incomplete application is subject to return without further processing.



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Application Detail Form for Blasting / Use of Explosives:

1. Name/Company:	2. Company Phone #:
3. Mailing address:	
3b. Email address:	FAX #:
4. Physical address if different from Line 3: [] Yes, the required map or site plan has been included showing the overall site, proposed blasting locations, as well as distances to occupied buildings, and other buildings/ infrastructure.	
5. City/State/Zip:	
6. Estimated date(s)/times for blasting:	

7. "Designated individual": (Print name, Last, First, MI)	See instructions for more information on "Designated individual".
	Card number:
	(Photo copy of card is to be attached to this application.)

7. Listing of Certified Blasters:	
List the Virginia State FMO certified Blasters the applicant is authorizing to operate under the USE permit being applied for. A blasting operation using explosive materials shall only be performed by a Virginia State FMO certified blasters. Non-certified personnel may use explosives but only when under the DIRECT, ON-SITE supervision of a Virginia State FMO certified blaster (VSFPC 3707.1)	
Name (print):	Certification #:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

8. Agricultural exemption to certification:
As provided for in SFPC Section 3301.2.4.1, individuals conducting agricultural blasting on their own property (five or more acres devoted to agricultural or horticultural use) are exempt from certification as a Blaster but, each applicant must still comply with §27-97.2 of the Code of Virginia by having undergone a criminal history records check. If you feel you qualify for the agricultural exemption, list your BCC number here:

9. Conviction of Felony
Have you ever been convicted of a felony? [] Yes [] No
If yes, have your voting rights been restored? [] Yes [] No If yes, when restored? (required) Mo ____ Day ____ Year ____

10. With my signature below, I attest the above information is correct and, as the designated individual, I acknowledge and agree to comply with all requirements of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code including but not limited to the following:

- a. Blast records shall be kept in accordance with VSFPC Section 3307.16 and made available for inspection by the Fire Marshal's Office representative upon request;
- b. Any airblast and/or ground vibration generated as a result of the functioning of the explosives shall be within limits established in NFPA 495-06 as referenced in the Statewide Fire Prevention Code;
- c. All flyrock will be confined to the defined blast site as required by the Statewide Fire Prevention Code;
- d. A bond or insurance in an amount not less than \$500,000.00 is provided and I will ensure documented proof will be attached to a copy of the issued permit both of which "shall be readily available for inspection by the fire official" on any job site within the locality for which it was issued. (An exception for agricultural blasting is provided in VSFPC Section 3301.2.4.1. The agricultural exemption for the proof of insurance or bond is not intended to be a defense against claims and does not provide relief from responsibility for any damages that may be incurred or claimed from the use of explosives.)
- e. If a permit is issued as a result of this application, a copy of the issued permit is to be readily available at each job site within the locality listed on line 8 and as printed on the permit.
- f. In accordance with VSFPC Section 3307.1, and as noted above on line 7, only a Virginia SFMO certified blaster shall conduct or supervise blasting operations.
- g. All utility companies within or near the blasting site must be contacted prior to submitting this application and approval obtained prior to blasting.

11. Signature of person named on line 6:

12. Date:

13. Should a permit be issued based upon this application, it will only be valid within Stafford County for the duration specified on the permit.

14. The completed application is to be accompanied by the required fee of **\$200.00** paid in the form of a check or money order payable to the **COUNTY OF STAFFORD**.

IMPORTANT:

Application must include, without exception, a photocopy of the valid Blasters Certification Card or Background Clearance Card issued to the designated individual whose name is on Line 6 and is signing Line 11.

Please read and understand the statement you are attesting to on Line 10d.

NOTIFICATION

Effective January 1, 2009, as provided in Section 107.1 of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (VSFPC), 2006 Edition and as a condition of permit issuance, all persons or companies in possession of a permit to USE explosives shall provide **AT LEAST 24 HOUR NOTICE** - to the FMO prior to any and all planned explosive shots. (A planned shot is one that can be normally construed as having forethought and scheduling.) **If possible, notification of more than 24 hours is strongly encouraged.**

24-hour notice prior to the use of explosives is not required when the use of explosives is done on an emergency basis only.

Examples of the emergency use of explosives can be illustrated as follows:

- 1. For immediate replacement of utility poles damaged from vehicular crashes or storm damage;
- 2. The clearing of rockslides from roadways on an emergency basis;
- 3. Other circumstances and situations having a sense of urgency and have to be accomplished without delay.

Notification is still to be made to the SFMO about the emergency use of explosives within 24 hours after the emergency has passed. Failure to provide the above notification will be viewed and treated as a violation of the VSFPC.

Notification to the Stafford County Emergency Communications Center at 540-658-4440 must be completed BEFORE AND AFTER EACH BLAST!