

WASHINGTON DC FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION – GENERAL ORDER



Subject: Blasting and Explosives	General Order: 615
Section: Fire Marshal's Office	Date of Issue: October 1, 2009
Authority: DCMR 12, Chapter 12H, Section F-107H Fire Prevention Code Supplement	Date of Expiration: Until Removed

I. SCOPE

The information contained in this document is intended for all applicants making application to the DC Fire & EMS Department Fire Prevention Division for blasting and explosive permits.

II. PURPOSE

The intent of this general order is to standardize the process for receiving and processing requests for blasting and explosives use.

III. DEFINITIONS

None

IV. POLICY

The policy of the Fire Marshal's Office is to handle requests for blasting and explosives use in the most efficient and courteous manner possible and without delay, while ensuring the safety of the public, handlers, and inspectors and in accordance with all applicable laws, codes and standards.

V. PROCEDURE

Applicants applying for blasting permits or permits to transport explosives must present the following items prior to the approval of said applications:

1. A DCRA application for "Construction on Private Property."
2. All completed permit applications and a check or money order for the appropriate amount made payable to the DC Treasurer should be submitted in person in the Fire Marshal's Office: (Note: The application is available in the Fire Marshal's Office and online).
3. Vehicle information (Registration and tag numbers, color, make, model, and year)

4. Written documentation illustrating the type and quantity of explosives, the location in which the explosives are to be used, the route of transportation in which the explosives will travel through the District of Columbia (as approved by the Fire Marshal), proposed times for product travel/ movement, and a blasting time schedule. **Note:** This information will be kept confidential.
5. Proper insurance documentation
6. Copy of all state and federal licensing that qualifies applicant to handle and use explosive (must be 21 years of age)
7. Copy of all licensing that qualifies applicant to handle and use explosive (must be a minimum of 21 years of age).

Important Additional Blasting and Explosives Information

1. A fire department permit is required for the following place and items when performing blasting operations within the District of Columbia:
 - a. The site in which the blasting will take place
 - b. The vehicle carrying the explosives
 - c. The vehicle carrying the blasting caps
2. A Vehicle safety inspection shall be performed by the DC Fire Marshal's office Hazmat Inspections Branch at a predetermined location, date, and time to ensure compliance with NFPA 495 before permits are issued. Usually this inspection will take place on the grounds of the DC Fire & EMS Department's Training Academy located at 4600 Shepherd Parkway SW.
3. Permits (Vehicle and site) are valid for only 45 business days and must be renewed a minimum of 72 hours before the expiration date.
4. All explosives and blasting agent vehicles will be escorted from the DC boarder to the approved location during the movement of said explosives by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).
 - a. Section 3301.5 (Supervision) of the 2006 International Fire Code as adopted into law by the District of Columbia, authorizes the code official (Fire Marshal) to require operations to be supervised at any time in order to determine compliance with safety and fire regulations.

Note: All questions relating to blasting and explosives shall be forwarded to:

**District of Columbia
Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department
Fire Prevention Division
1100 4th Street SW Suite E700
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 727-1614**

