

NEWS THIS MONTH

YOUR SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS ROCK-BREAKING



NEVER LET DOWN YOUR GUARD

There are a few types of blasters that use Nxburst™ cartridges. A blaster that has been using Nxburst™ cartridges for years and never had an incident. A seasoned blaster that uses Nxburst™ in a few situations every year but high explosives are their product of choice. Or finally a newer blaster that has a couple of blasts under her belt and training still fresh in her mind. The question to ask yourself is which blaster has the most potential for an accident. Very simply the answer can easily be all of them. If you have never had an incident in years of blasting, are accustomed to high explosives and view cartridges as nothing more than firecrackers or don't fully appreciate what could go wrong, your potential for an accident can be high. Blasting accidents happen fast, once the button is pressed to initiate a shot, there is no going back. The last 10 shots that were done on a blast job can go perfectly, but your 11th shot had some fractured rock below the surface, making a fly rock incident almost inevitable.

All the blasting formulas in the world can only cover a percentage of variables. When the rock changes, everything changes.

Complacency is always the enemy. It is true that Nxburst™ cartridges can be safer, reduce damaging effects and minimize environmental impacts of blasting. It is easy to forget



however that it is still blasting. Both NRCAN and the ATF classify Nxburst™ an explosive. Blasting rules and regulations generally never consider the type of explosive within their language to ensure that loopholes to the law are non-existent. This means that using Nxburst™ or high explosives, the requirements are the same. Guards, signs and a warning system are a must to protect the surrounding area. In an urban environment blasting mats and cover material are a must. A single baseball size piece of fly rock can change the course of many lives forever. In the proximity of people, there is also another factor to all the safety that must be accounted for, public perception. Surprising unexpected neighbours with blasting work is never a good thing, the general public will always jump to the worst-case scenario when it comes to explosives and the only way to manage that is with information.

Precondition surveys not only protect your liability to costly insurance claims, it also provides an opportunity to inform the residents of an area on what they can expect, how they are protected and in the case of Nxburst cartridges how they are so much safer. A quarry environment is much different to a residential construction site and the needs are much greater when people and infrastructure are in proximity but they still require the same attention to detail with respect to safety. When things are done correctly, Nxburst blasts have a wonderful way of breaking rock without a dramatic effect.



As a blaster, there is nothing better than small fragmentation and a gallery of disappointed spectators.



MacLean MDA Pneumatic Drills

It seems that the summer weather is fighting to hold on. A good thing if you are trying to get this year's projects wrapped up or trying to get prepared for next year's orders. With the availability of 5 different models, the MacLean MDA family of pneumatic rock drills can make all the difference to your projects. If you are extracting limestone in the Orillia area, preparing windmill foundations in the Yukon, or working in a remote fly-in construction project north of the arctic circle MacLean drills have been there. The drills have been installed on excavators as small as three tons right up to 15 ton machines. We have seen them installed on small cranes for unmatched versatility. We are happy to introduce you to the drills and help you decide which size suits your needs best. With drills on the ground we are ready to supply you with a drilling solution from 1.25" to 4" diameter holes.

