

WS Directive

2.435 07/03/09

EXPLOSIVES USE AND SAFETY

1. PURPOSE

To provide procedures and accountability for WS use of explosives for managing beaver damage and training requirements for explosives certification, but is not intended to provide guidelines and requirements for other explosive materials, such as pyrotechnics and rocket net charges.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive revises WS Directive 2.435 dated 01/06/06.

3. BACKGROUND

Explosives are an efficient, cost-effective tool for removing beaver dams causing damage to property or other resources.

A WS Explosives Safety Committee composed of qualified WS personnel appointed by the WS Deputy Administrator is responsible for developing explosives safety and security procedures for WS, conducting explosives training, and certifying WS explosives specialists. All training requirements and operating procedures must be approved by the WS Deputy Administrator before implementation.

Guidelines and requirements for other explosive materials such as pyrotechnics, rocket net charges, and other incidental explosive materials are detailed in other WS Directives.

4. POLICY

Only explosive materials and components for their use listed in the WS Explosives Safety Manual are authorized for use by WS in managing beaver damage.

WS explosives specialists are not authorized to use, handle, or dispose of explosives belonging to other parties or to obtain explosives from outside sources for WS program use other than licensed distributors or manufacturers.

State Directors are responsible for ensuring that explosives magazine inspection, record keeping, and inventory requirements are met in accordance with WS Explosives Manual guidelines. These requirements include biannual magazine site safety inspections

(APHIS Form 256-5, Safety Inspection Checklist; <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/downloads/forms/aphis/aphis256-5.pdf>) and physical inventories of all explosives on hand recorded on WS Form 22. These physical inventory records will be reviewed and signed by the State Director or his/her designee to certify accuracy.

All WS use, storage, and transportation of explosives covered by this directive will be in compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, procedures outlined in the WS Explosives Safety Manual, and requirements set forth in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration standard for explosives found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29, part 1910.109, Explosives and Blasting Agents.

State Directors are the authorizing officials for designating nominees for explosives training and for approving the purchase, handling, and use of explosives by explosives specialists on projects approved by the State Director.

WS explosives specialists will contact local emergency response (fire department / fire Marshall) about location of explosives storage.

WS employees will receive explosives training and be certified according to WS policy before using binary explosives or explosive materials listed as approved explosive components in the WS Explosives Safety Manual. There may be additional state specific requirements for training, licenses or permits. These additional regulations must be met before an explosive specialist is authorized to use explosives.

The WS explosives certification process will require:

- a. State Directors to nominate qualified candidates under their supervision for explosives training.
- b. A minimum of 24 hours instruction in explosives safety, WS explosives handling procedures, security, and legal compliance.
- c. Candidates to demonstrate safe and proficient use of explosive components and use procedures approved for WS field operations.
- d. Successful completion of all WS explosives certification requirements.

Only after satisfying all WS training requirements and upon recommendation of the WS Explosives Safety Committee will candidates be eligible for certification. The Committee will recommend to the certifying official, the Explosives Safety Committee Chair, the candidates eligible for certification and those certifications that should be denied or revoked.

A minimum of 8 hours of approved explosives refresher training are required every two

years to maintain WS certification. Certified employees who do not meet this requirement within 2 years of their last training will forfeit their certification. Renewal of certification after forfeiture will require successful completion of another 24-hour WS basic explosives training course.

Only certified Explosives Specialists who have successfully completed WS Advanced Explosives Safety Training will use delay detonator systems.

Accidents, Thefts or Loss:

Additionally, any suspicious or unusual activity, theft/loss or attempted theft of explosive materials, and break-ins or attempted break-ins to buildings where explosive materials are stored will be reported in a timely manner to State and local law enforcement authorities, the State Director, and the WS Explosives Safety Committee through the Committee Chair. All accidents must be reported to the State Director as well as the Explosives Safety Committee Chair

5. REFERENCES

APHIS Safety and Health Manual (Revised 6/30/04).

WS Explosives Safety Manual.

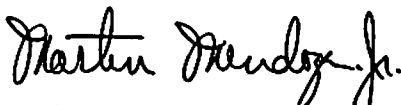
29 CFR Part 1910.109 - Explosives and Blasting Agents.

27 CFR Part 555 - Commerce in Explosives, Subpart G - Records and Reports.

27 CFR Part 555 - Commerce in Explosives, Subpart K Storage.

27 CFR Part 555. – Commerce in Explosives, Subpart I Unlawful Acts, Penalties, Seizures and Forfeitures.

49 CFR Parts 106, 107, 110, 171 through 180, and 397 – Department of Transportation.



Acting Deputy Administrator