

***If you have any further questions,
contact the following environmental
groups and government agencies.***

Mountain Watershed Association, Inc.
www.mtwatershed.com
(724) 455-4200

TriState Citizens Mining Network
www.tristatecitizens.org
724-223-8644

PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
www.dep.state.pa.us/
(724) 925-5500

OH Division of Natural Resources (ODNR)
www.dnr.state.oh.us/
614-265-6633

WV Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
www.dep.state.wv.us/
(304) 759-0595

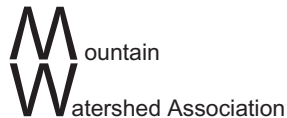
Office of Surface Mining (OSM)
www.osmre.gov/

***The information in this brochure
no way constitutes a legal opinion.
It is a list of suggestions.***

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For additional copies of this brochure
and others in the series, contact the



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www.mtwatershed.com

In Case of Blasting Emergency!

Blasts need to be noted on your calendar.

Look for damage to windows, doors, plumbing, foundations & fixtures.

Acute stress caused by blasting is not healthy. Calm down and tend to others at risk.

Soap solution can be used to check for gas leaks.

Take careful notes. Decide where, how and to whom you want to complain.

Blast records should be secured as soon as possible.

Any public safety hazard, trespass or destruction of property caused by the mine's blasting should be reported to the police

Coordinate your local group's actions. Inform the press. TV cameras help focus regulators on their duty.

Keep track of documentation by your neighbors. Encourage your neighbors to keep records and keep track of documentation.

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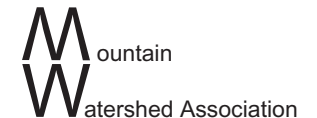
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Mountain
Watershed Association
P.O. Box 408
Melcroft, PA 15462

10 Steps For



Blasting Back!



We all live downstream...

We all live downstream... www.mtwatershed.com

Ten Steps For *Blasting Back!*



1. Organize or join a group. Groups with common problems and interests can learn from each other. Start with people who are harmed or threatened by blasting; expand to include others who share your concerns. A group can apply real pressure on the mining company and government regulatory agencies. Do not let the mining company or the regulatory agencies “split” your group.

2. Recruit a lawyer, preferably one who has successfully handled blasting damage claims for citizens or at least one who has represented citizens in cases on environmental issues.



3. Don't assume the regulatory agencies are your friends. They will do little or nothing to stop the blasting damage. In fact, the regulatory agencies' job, to quote one of them, is to “defuse” your complaints and defeat your damage claims. When public officials fail to carry out their sworn duty to protect the public, don't be bashful about filing a complaint with the DEP or OSM. For instructions on filing complaints, contact us or your local “watch dog” group.



4. Beware of wasting time on state investigations of blasting damage. State agencies do not employ qualified blasting experts. You cannot get a fair shake unless the regulator's technical staff is qualified and unbiased. Talk to other citizens' groups in your area to compare notes about the quality of the regulators' alleged experts.

5. Slam the door on Office of Surface Mining (OSM) offers to “study” your problem. Their technical “experts” will not testify under oath. They are not accountable for errors and or false assumptions. If you accept a study, impose strict conditions.



6. Follow all the steps outlined in “How to Document Blasting Damage,” available on the Mountain Watershed Association web site at www.mtwatershed.com, religiously.

7. Send blast damage complaints to your state RA and OSM in writing. You need to create a “paper trail.” It is proof of your good faith effort and can serve you well later both in court and the “court of public opinion.” Keep copies and postal receipts for your files.



8. Learn the facts about blasting effects and how the regulatory system works against citizen complaints. Use this knowledge to nip in the bud regulatory schemes and phony studies.

9. Go public. Attract media attention to your damage, and make sure that your public meetings and political actions are reported in newspapers and on TV.



10. Hang in there! Be tenacious and persistent in protecting your rights. You can win and get some justice. It won't be easy or happen quickly, but it can and will happen if you see it through.

