

***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

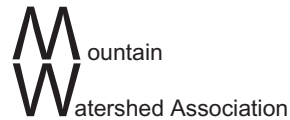
Office of Surface Mining (OSM)
www.osmre.gov/

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It is a list of suggestions.***

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Graphics by:
Real Country Life Graphics & PrePress
724-455-7746 - mjmurphy@westol.com
www.realcountrylife.com

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



P.O. Box 408, Melcroft, PA 15462
Phone: (724) 455-4200 Fax: (724) 455-4201
Email: mwa@helicon.net
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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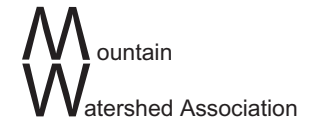
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Mountain
Watershed Association
P.O. Box 408
Melcroft, PA 15462

How Do I Document



Blasting Damage?



We all live downstream...

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

How to Document Blasting Damage

1. First and foremost: Get your own professional pre-blast survey before the mining begins. This will serve as a “base-line” reference for subsequent damage and as evidence in court. Get a pre-blast survey done even if damage has started so you can document subsequent blasting damage. Your insurance company, an engineering firm, the MWA or your local “watch dog” group can provide information on how to have this done.



2. Get a professional damage survey done with each blasting damage occurrence even if blasting damage has already begun.

3. Be home to witness as many blasts as possible.

4. Keep a log of the date, time and severity of every blast you witness. Try to calm down after severe blasts to avoid making mistakes in your log.

5. Describe the sounds of the blasts and the extent of shaking in your blast log. An air blast may follow ground vibration by many seconds, depending on



your distance from the mine. Indicate the affected area in your log along with any evidence of new damage.

6. It is important to document new damage immediately. Notify your lawyer, the state RA and OSM. Some homeowners have called the police and filed complaints of trespass, destruction of property or public nuisance - this works well when there is a local noise or nuisance ordinance.



7. Keep a journal of your telephone calls concerning blast complaints to officials and mine personnel. Follow up in writing because otherwise, your complaint is not official, and save your postal receipts. Remember: there is no record unless you make a written record.



8. Inspect your house carefully after each blast and do the following:

- Date and mark off the ends of all cracks and crack extensions. Note the time of the damaging blast, if known. Include the location and length of new cracks in your written complaints to state Regulatory agencies, OSM and elected officials.
- Take photographs. Keep negatives and

extra copies. If cracks are too fine to show up in photos, draw a line following the shape of the crack. Use enlargements. Put a person (or a part of a person, like a hand holding a ruler) in the picture to give the viewer a sense of scale.

- Be prepared to climb ladders and chairs, crawl in tight spaces and brave places where spiders and other critters hide.



Beware of snakes, which may move into cracks in your foundation caused by blasts. Carry a camera, flashlight, lamp, pencil, colored chalk, marking pens and tape measure.

- Be aware that new damage to the inside of your house is likely to occur as hairline cracks that are hard to see. Hairline cracks are often around doorways, windows or corners, and sometimes ceilings. If you hold a flashlight parallel against a wall and aim the flashlight beam across the wall at an angle in a darkened room, very fine hairline cracks and “nail-pops” may be more visible. Also note doors and windows that do not open or close properly because the house has shifted.
- Photograph plaster and other debris that fall from blast cracks. Leave plaster chips undisturbed or place in plastic bags labeled with date and time of blast, if known.
- Inspect plumbing. Leaks may not be immediately evident. Some homeowners

have reported toilets being knocked off their seals.

- Document the damage in your basement. Note if there are long horizontal cracks in foundation walls at or near the soil level.
- Inspect exposed wood beams for cracks and splintering. Walls may be cracked around insertions of horizontal steel beams. Ceilings may be cracked around support columns.
- Check for gas leaks after severe blasts. Use your nose and a mixture of dish detergent and water on the pipes and joints.
- Inspect the house exterior. Look for new cracks in brick and stone, particularly when cracked through the center. Chimneys may be damaged. If blasting affects the soil, the house may show signs of unusual “settling.” Blasting cracks may allow water to penetrate into your house. RA “experts” and mine consultants love to write reports that cite drainage problems as the cause of all your damage instead of blasting.

