

# HALIFAX

## Blasting in Halifax

Community Planning & Economic Development  
Committee

January 11, 2019



# *Introduction*

# General Blasting Regulations

## Quarries

**NS General Blasting Regulations**(OH&S Act), Public & Workplace Safety

**NS Activities Designation Regulations**, Property Damage & Nuisance

## Construction Sites

**NS General Blasting Regulations**(OH&S Act), Public & Workplace Safety

**HRM Blasting By-law**, Property Damage & Nuisance, 2,500 Blasts per Year

# Objectives of the By-law

- **Regulates Impacts of Blasting**
  - Establish “thresholds” & involve the relevant professionals in blast design and monitoring
- **Provide information to residents for claim settlement**
  - Monitoring standards
- **Does NOT address Occupational Health & Safety**
- **Does NOT apply to Quarries**



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# ***Blasting By-law***

## **Key Provisions**

**Threshold Limits for Vibration and Air Blast Limits**

**Limit for Vibration Based on Safe Limit to Prevent Cracking in Plaster Walls**

**Air Blast Limit Based on Nuisance**  
**128 dBa**



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# How Much is 128 dB?

<u>Noise Level</u>	<u>Pressure Ratio</u>	<u>Example</u>
0 dB	1	Lowest Measurable
70 dB	3,000	Normal Conversation
80 dB	10,000	Busy City Street
100 dB	100,000	Shouting at Close Range
120 dB	1 Million	Loud Rock Concert
128 dB	2.5 Million	Blasting Bylaw Limit
140 dB	10 Million	Drywall can crack

# ***Blasting By-law***

## **Key Provisions – cont'd.**

### **Blast Monitoring Standards**

**Requires “Qualified Monitor” to Be an Engineer or Geoscientist**

### **Limit Weight of Explosive Charge Based on Distance to Nearest Structure**

**Minimizes Effects on Schools, Hospitals, Wells, Septic Fields, Utilities**

**Pre-Blast Area Based on Maximum Weight of Explosive Used**

# ***Blasting By-law***

## **Key Provisions – cont'd.**

**Easier Access to Pre-blast Survey**

**Better Notification**

**Dedicated Inspector**

**Special Powers of the Inspector**

**e.g. – Heritage Properties, Public Meetings,**

**Compliance Monitoring**

**By-law can be found at:**

**<https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/legislation-by-laws/By-lawB-600.pdf>**



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