



Illinois Department of
Natural Resources MEMORANDUM

To: All Aggregate and Coal Operators and Contract Blasters

From: Michael D. Falter, Manager
Explosives and Aggregate Division
Office of Mines and Minerals

Date: October 29, 2025

Subject: 2026 Aggregate Blasting Licensure and Coal Blasting Certification
Training and Examination

This letter is to provide notice of the next scheduled blasting licensure and certification training and examination sessions. All individuals whose duties include the direct supervision of blasting operations at surface coal and non-coal mining operations are required to be licensed or certified.

To obtain a blaster license or certificate, a person must provide an application to the Department and show proof of experience on forms provided by the Department. Applicants for Surface Aggregate licenses must submit a fingerprint based background check along with a non-refundable fee of \$150. A fingerprint vendor list can be found at <https://idfprapps.illinois.gov/licenselookup/fingerprintlist.asp> **All required documentation must be received prior to the date of the training.** Once the application is approved, the person must pass an examination administered by the Department. Training will be provided by the Department, at no charge, in conjunction with each examination.

<u>Training</u>	<u>Examination</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 24-26, 2026	February 27, 2026	IL Department of Natural Resources Office of Mines and Minerals Explosives and Aggregate Division One Natural Resources Way Springfield, IL 62702-1271
October 06-08, 2026	October 09, 2026	IL Department of Natural Resources Office of Mines and Minerals Explosives and Aggregate Division One Natural Resources Way Springfield, IL 62702-1271

Although only two examinations have been scheduled for the calendar year of 2026, the Department will continue to offer additional examinations if a company or group of companies can put together at least 10 individuals. The date and location of these additional training and examination sessions will be determined based upon the needs of the participants and the availability of Department training personnel.

Registration information will be provided to individuals scheduled to attend the sessions. If you have any questions concerning the blaster license, blaster certificate, training or examination please contact Antony Lacey at (217) 494-8633 or by email at Antony.Lacey@illinois.gov.