



Residential Dwelling Damaged in Blasting Incident

On 2022-07-20, a blasting contractor detonated a blast at the Pitt River Quarry in Pitt Meadows, British Columbia. The blast propelled a single piece of flyrock beyond the mine's boundary, striking and penetrating the roof of an inhabited dwelling in a nearby neighbourhood. The incident met the criteria outlined in Section 1.7.1 of the *Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia (HSRC)* and was reported to the Chief Inspector of Mines in accordance with Section 1.7.2.

Following the incident, the Chief Inspector of Mines directed the Mines Investigation Unit to conduct an investigation under Section 7 of the *Mines Act*. The investigation identified several contributing factors, including:

- Inadequate preparation of the blast pattern;
- Failure to address known issues with the blast pattern prior to loading and firing the blast;
- The decision not to use blasting mats;
- Permit limits for ground vibration and air overpressure that may not effectively prevent blasting-related damages.

As a result of the incident, the mine was ordered, pursuant to Section 15(5)(b) of the *Mines Act*, to submit records of all future blasts to the regional inspector for review. In addition, an order under Section 18 of the *Mines Act* was issued requiring the mine have an independent expert review the mine's blasting plan. The mine has complied with the orders and accepted the expert's recommendation to retain a specialized blasting contractor with a more robust safety management program for future blasts. As the investigation did not find any non-compliance to the *Mines Act* and the *HSRC*, no further enforcement action was recommended, an enhanced safety plan has been established for the mine's blasting activities.