

# MAGAZINE OPERATIONS

## Section 5.6 of Safety Library Publication 3 – Suggested Code of Regulations for the Manufacture, Transportation, Storage, Sale, Possession and Use of Explosive Materials

### by The Institute of Makers of Explosives

#### §5.6.1 Storage within Magazines

- a. One person shall be in charge of a magazine. The person shall be at least 21 years of age, conversant with, and responsible for the enforcement of all safety rules regarding operation of the magazine. All personnel handling explosives must be a possessor or responsible person as determined by ATF according to the Safe Explosives Act.
- b. All magazines containing explosive materials shall be inspected at intervals of not greater than seven days to determine whether there has been an unauthorized entry or attempted entry into the magazines, or unauthorized removal of the magazines or their contents.
- c. Magazine doors shall be kept locked when the magazine is unattended.
- d. Current safety rules covering the operations of magazines shall be posted on the interior of the magazine.
- e. When explosive material is removed from a magazine for use, the oldest useable stocks shall be removed first.
- f. Corresponding grades and brands shall be stored together and in such a manner that brand and grade marks are visible. All stocks shall be stored so as to be easily counted and checked.
- g. Packages of explosive materials shall be stacked in a stable manner, not exceeding 8 feet in height.
- h. Packages of explosive materials which have been opened shall be closed before being placed in a magazine. Only fiberboard packages must be opened in the magazine.
- i. Packages of damaged explosive materials shall not be unpacked or repacked in, or within 50 feet (15.2 m) of, a magazine or in close proximity to other explosive materials.
- j. Magazines shall be used exclusively for the storage of explosive materials and other such blasting materials and accessories as must be permitted [by the authority having jurisdiction]. No tools, except approved conveying and cleaning equipment, shall be stored in a magazine.
- k. Magazine floors shall be swept regularly and kept clean, dry, free of grit, paper and rubbish. Sweepings from floors of magazines shall be disposed of in accordance with approved practices.
- l. When explosive materials have deteriorated to an extent that they are in an unstable or dangerous condition, or any liquid leaks from any explosive materials, the person in possession of such explosive materials shall immediately contact the supplier or manufacturer. Only experienced persons shall direct the work of disposing of explosive materials.
- m. Magazine floors stained with liquid shall be dealt with according to instructions obtained from the manufacturer of the explosive materials stored in the magazine.
- n. When magazines need interior repairs all explosive materials shall be removed and the floors cleaned before and after making repairs.
- o. In making exterior magazine repairs, when there is a possibility of causing a fire, all explosive materials shall first be removed from the magazine.
- p. Explosive materials removed from a magazine under repair shall either be placed in another magazine or placed a safe distance from the magazine, where they shall be properly guarded and protected until repairs have been completed. Upon completion of repairs, the explosive materials shall be promptly returned to the magazine.
- q. Smoking, matches, flame-producing devices, open flames, and firearms or cartridges shall not be permitted inside of or within 50 feet (15.2 m) of magazines.
- r. The land within 25 feet (7.6 m) of any magazine shall be kept clear of rubbish, brush, dried grass, leaves, dead trees, and all live trees less than 10 feet (3 m) high.
- s. Volatile materials shall not be stored within 50 feet (15.2 m) of magazines.
- t. Explosive materials recovered from blasting misfires shall be placed in a magazine until an experienced person has determined the method of disposal.
- u. The premises upon which all outdoor magazines, except Type 3, are located shall be posted with signs reading "Explosives – Keep Off." These signs shall be in contrasting colors with a minimum letter size of 3 inches (75 mm) height with 1/2 inch (12.5 mm) brush stroke. All signs shall be located so that a bullet passing through the sign will not strike a magazine and no sign shall be attached to a magazine.
- v. The placards required by 49 CFR for the transportation of blasting agents shall be displayed on all Type 5 magazines in which blasting agents are being stored.
- w. All normal access routes to explosive materials storage facilities shall be posted with the following warning sign:

**DANGER**  
**NEVER FIGHT EXPLOSIVE FIRES**  
**EXPLOSIVES ARE STORED ON THIS SITE**  
**CALL \_\_\_\_\_**

The sign shall be weather-resistant with a reflective surface and lettering at least 2 inches (50 mm) high. The first two lines shall be in red lettering and the remaining printing in black.