

FACT SHEET

## Virginia's Aggregate Producers Put Safety First. Always.

Virginia's Aggregate Producers hold the safety and welfare of their employees, neighbors and surrounding community as OUR number one priority. Safe operations are the foundation for building trust and positive relationships with employees, neighbors and the communities we serve.

### Safety Checks

- Safety manager on staff to train and assure employees adhere to mandated safety practices.
- Employees must participate in 24 hours of new miner training "prior" to starting to work and 8 hours of annual refresher safety training.
- Regulated by numerous state and federal agencies to assure safe operations for employees, the surrounding community and the environment.
- Aggregate producers strive to exceed and outperform regulatory agencies' guidelines.
- Oversight agencies frequently conduct unannounced and very thorough inspections of the site, equipment and operations. Penalties for non-compliance can range from a warning to substantial fines or, in rare cases, imprisonment.

### Rock Blasting

- Virginia law allows vibration from blasting based on the US Bureau of Mines guidelines which range from 0.75 to 2.0 inches per second based on frequency.
- Virginia blasting laws are based on the U.S. Bureau of Mines extensive testing on what level of vibration or overpressure can cause even cosmetic damage to residential structures.
- Blast records are open to state regulatory inspection.
- Each shot is designed and overseen by a professional licensed blaster.
- No explosives are stored on site.
- Explosives are delivered to the quarry in an inert form. Explosives are only activated prior to being placed in the rock formation.

### Oversight agencies include:

- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME)
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- U.S. Department of Labor, **Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)**
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

### Who to Call

Should you ever have a question about the safety of operations at an aggregate operation, do not hesitate to contact the location and speak with the Safety Manager, Quarry Operations Superintendent or Supervisor.