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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

*Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy*

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MEMORANDUM DM 12- 03

**TO:** All Coal Mine Operators

**FROM:**   
M. Randy Moore, Chief

**SUBJECT:** U.S. Office of Surface Mining Training Requirements for Initial Surface Blasters Certification

**DATE:** November 8, 2012

Effective immediately, as required by the U. S. Office of Surface Mining (OSM), 30 CFR 850.13, applicants for initial Virginia Surface Blasters Certification will be required to complete surface blasting training modules as a prerequisite to take the Surface Blasters Examination.

Completion of the blasting training modules must be verified by a notarized affidavit. This affidavit must be submitted to the Division of Mines when application is made and prior to signing up to take the examination. The training modules can be found on the DMME website at <http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov/NTTMainSite/Library/hbmanual/btm/start.htm>, and the affidavit is located at <http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DM/pdf/Affidavit-Attachment%20I.pdf>. A disc of the required training can be purchased for \$1.00 at the DMME's Big Stone Gap or Lebanon offices.

Should you have questions, contact 276-523-8149 or 276-523-8225.

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