Virtual Tour
Explosive Research Lab (ERL)
at Colorado School of Mines
Idaho Springs, Colorado USA
Explosive Research and Education Center

Colorado School of Mines
Advanced Explosives Processing Research Group
(AXPRO Group)
The Explosive Research Laboratory is a 2000 acre property in Idaho Springs, CO. The laboratory consists of one primary test site and 4 secondary test sites. Support facilities include an on-site office, preparation/changing room, type 1 & type 3 magazines, and a machine shop. The laboratory is fully wired for electricity, internet, and phone service.
The Explosive Research Laboratory staff members have many years of experience and are experts in designing and conducting explosive experiments. The primary test site has permit for up to 20-pounds of explosives per delay. Multiple explosives and initiation systems are available. Data collection capabilities include: fiber optic VOD measurement, high speed imagery, air overpressure measurement, strain measurement, x-ray radiography, and ground vibration and air blast monitoring.

The secondary test sites are permitted for charges of 1-5 pounds per delay. They share data collection capabilities with the primary test site.
Secured Perimeter Around the ERL and Visitor Upper Parking Lot
Colorado School of Mines, Explosive Research Laboratory (ERL) at Idaho Springs, Colorado

ERL Office
And Check In Point
Preparation Area & 2 Explosive Magazines Type 2
To the Test Site!

Whole year around accessible for testing
Blaster's Station

Colorado School of Mines, Explosive Research Laboratory (ERL) at Idaho Springs, Colorado

Remotely initiation systems
Centralized triggering and data collection
Warning Siren, 120V,
Main Test site

Colorado School of Mines, Explosive Research Laboratory (ERL) at Idaho Springs, Colorado

Not Shown: Preparation and turn around area behind blast wall

To Test Site Office

To Blaster Point

Approximately 25-meters

West Geophone Array

East Geophone Array

Test Pit
Driving direction from Denver:
• Take I-70 W towards Idaho Springs
• Take exit number 240, turn right (north) at the top of the exit ramp, proceed 2 blocks to Colorado Boulevard
• Turn Left (west) onto Colorado Boulevard, proceed to 8th Avenue
• Turn Right (north) onto 8th Avenue
• The Edger Mine is at the top of the hill.
• Go left when you reach the mine and follow the signs to the ERL

See you there soon!
Coming into Idaho Springs

Take exit number 240, turn right (north) at the top of the exit ramp, proceed 2 blocks to Colorado Boulevard

Turn Left (west) onto Colorado Boulevard
Turn Right (north) onto 8th Avenue
Proceed Through Lower Parking Lot
Turn Left After Entering Mine Parking Lot
Park Before Entering Main Gate