THE AUSTIN ADVANTAGE

PRECISION BLAST NEAR TRACKS DELIVERS 260% MORE ROCK WITH NO DAMAGE

GENERAL **INFORMATION**

Location: Foley, Missouri. Central States LLC.

Industry: Surface Limestone

Products Used: 153 50’ Shock*Star DD 25/500, 153 Eagle 340 Booster, Hydromite 4100 (6,580lbs), Hydromite 4600 (11,985lbs)

Project Lead: Adam Nichols (Technical Director, West Central Region), James Keithley (Technical Manager, Central States)

Author: James Keithley, Central States Technical Manage

THE **HISTORY**

This company has a long history in the aggregates industry and was once a valued Austin Powder customer. Through this blast—and a series of others we’ve executed with precision, safety, and efficiency, we’ve been able to demonstrate the value we bring to their operations and have opened the door to building a stronger partnership based on trust, reliability, and results.

THE **GOALS**

1. Don’t hit the railroad tracks.
2. Create and execute a blast plan that will separate Austin Powder from the competition.
3. Reduce the number of blasts in this area to help minimize the number of high-risk shots by increasing the size of the blast.

CUSTOMER **CHALLENGE**

Austin Powder was tasked with designing a blast that involved several different risks. The first step was to find a way to get the shot on the ground without hitting or damaging the railroad. This was going to be particularly challenging due to the close proximity of the tracks, which were 180 feet away and nearly 180 feet below the blast.

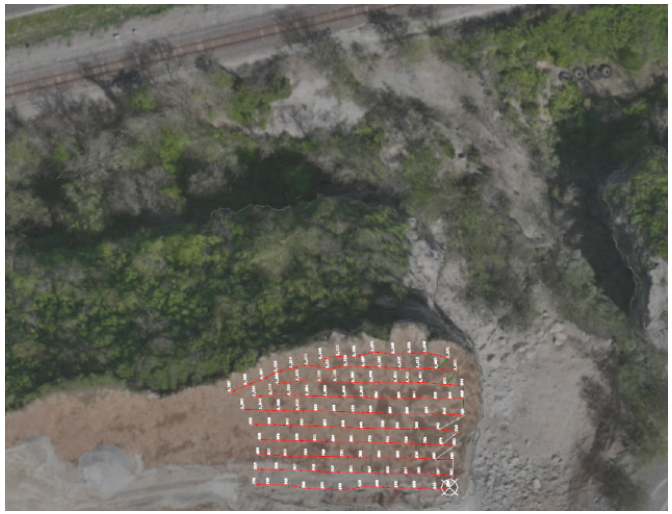
The next challenge was to design a solution that wasn't only safe but also increased the blast size. Lastly, we coordinated with BNSF Railroad to ensure the tracks would be clear and had emergency contacts in place in case the tracks were hit.

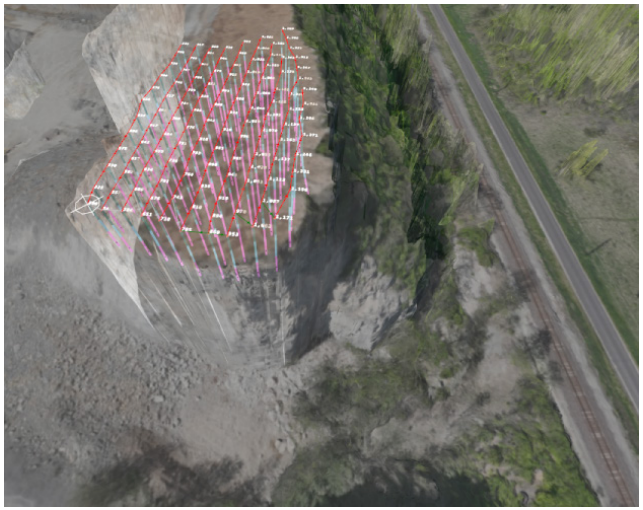
THE **AUSTIN** SOLUTION

To design the blast in a way that would give us the most forward movement (away from the tracks) and keep that momentum throughout the shot. We also designed the blast with heavier burdens on the track side to help reduce the backward movement. With the use of 3D models from Paradigm and a LiDAR scan done by Dirk Carolan, we were able to predict the outcome of the muck pile and determine if the design was a safe option. With this data, we were also able to design the shot much larger than our competitor's.

THE **OUTCOME**

On August 22, 2025, we successfully initiated the blast without any flyrock or damage to the railroad. With this blast, we achieved a 260% increase in rock coverage compared to our competitor, which will significantly reduce their costs and the number of blasts required in this area. This has enabled us to take over this business and has the potential to provide Austin Powder with additional sites with this customer throughout Missouri.





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