

# **COMMERCIAL DETONATORS: A REVIEW OF METHODS USED. PAST AND PRESENT. TO COMPARE THEIR STRENGTHS**

Robert B. Hopley  
Manager - Technical Service  
IRECO Incorporated  
Salt Lake City, Utah

## **ABSTRACT**

This paper reviews, from the historical standpoint, the development of the commonly-used terms such as "No. 6 and No. 8" with regard to detonator strengths. The origin of the strength terminology is reviewed, and the many methods developed to compare the strength of one detonator to another are described, with the good and bad points of each method outlined. The "miniature cartridge test," very highly regarded by both the U.S. Bureau of Mines and Institute of Makers of Explosives in the 1930's and early 1940's, is described in detail, as is a test developed and used by IRECO.