

# Pores for thought – An Introduction to Pore Pressure and Cases from Svalbard and the Barents Shelf

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Pore pressure is the fluid pressure within the pore spaces of any rock. “Normal” pressures are those that build with depth due to the increasing column of overlying water. Abnormal pressures are those which either exceed this (overpressure) or fall below it (underpressure). They can cause potentially serious hazards during drilling into the subsurface and are observed both on Svalbard and beneath the Barents Sea.

Underpressure is a geologically rare phenomenon and is documented in fewer than twenty basins worldwide. On Svalbard it is particularly severe and encountered at very shallow depths. The Barents shelf is also the only place in the world where such abnormally low pressures are encountered offshore.

In this lunch seminar I will provide an introduction to pore pressure, why it is important, how we measure it. I will also provide examples of underpressure from Svalbard and the Barents Shelf and discuss its formation mechanism.