



BLASTER

We need Blasters because they are responsible for loading and detonating the explosives needed in mining while following strict health, safety and security regulations. Blasters must have good planning skills and great attention to detail.

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Lay out drill patterns, determine depth and diameter of blast holes
- Conduct field tests to determine type and quantity of explosives required
- Design the blast timings
- Assemble primer charges using selected detonators, fuses, detonating cords and other materials
- Manually load explosives in blast holes or direct bulk explosives trucks to load holes
- Connect electrical wires, detonating cords or fuses into series and connect series to blasting machines; detonate charges
- Manage, store and transport explosives and accessories according to regulations and ensure that safety procedures are observed at all times
- Report on and maintain accurate inventory of explosives
- May operate air-track, rotary, in-the-hole or other drilling machines to drill blast holes

JOB ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Note: The requirements listed below illustrate what it takes to start the career and do not take into account on-the-job training given to new employees.

Fixed Requirements

- Up to one year of experience as a Blaster’s Helper or Shooter’s Helper
- Must be able to pass a medical test
- Must be able to pass a drug test
- Willingness to work in a diverse environment
- Proficiency in the language of operation

Regional Requirement

- Valid Blaster certificate

May be Required

- Undergo a criminal record check
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Blaster or Driller vocational certificate

Assets

- Willingness to relocate
- Other languages

SUCCESS PROFILE

- Follows procedures (especially around hazardous material, equipment and machinery)
- Follows verbal directions and hand signals
- Works well under pressure and stays focused and calm
- Is organized, precise and accurate
- Has strong risk management skills
- Values safety, health and a positive working environment

COMPENSATION

\$31.47/hr

\$48.24/hr

(Source: Canadian Mine Salaries, Wages & Benefits: 2018 Survey Results, InfoMine USA, 2018).

JOB PROSPECTS

Demand in Mining



Skill Transferability Among Other Industries



WHY ARE PEOPLE ATTRACTED TO THIS CAREER?

Blasters are in excellent physical condition, work well under pressure, and enjoy teamwork and working outdoors. Every day is different and there is always a lot of action on the job.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO WORK AS A BLASTER IN MINING?

Note: conditions vary according to employer and region.

Blasters have the opportunity to work at both underground and surface mine sites. Potentially exposed to severe environmental conditions, they must be able to transport loads of explosives, follow strict procedures around potentially hazardous materials, and thoroughly interpret federal and provincial regulations.

Blasters are team players, working with production drillers and other operation and production crews to ensure safety and minimize risks.