

BLASTER



ABOUT THIS JOB

Blasters place and detonate explosives to loosen, remove, or displace earth, rock or other materials in the mining process. They may also perform specialized handling, storage and accounting procedures. Blasters must know about the equipment, safety policies and procedures for handling explosives and the strategies to make sure all local, state and national security measures are met for the protection of people and property during the mining process. Blasters are careful, reliable and responsible people who are especially good at paying attention to multiple details and are very thorough in completing tasks. Blasters work in potentially dangerous situations and must be able to perform in high-pressure situations.

BLASTERS PERFORM THE FOLLOWING TASKS:

- Examine blast areas to determine amounts and kinds of explosive charges needed and to ensure that safety laws are observed
- Tie specified lengths of delaying fuses into patterns in order to time sequences of explosions
- Place safety cones around blast areas to alert other workers of danger zones, and signal workers as necessary to ensure that they clear blast sites prior to explosions
- Place explosive charges in holes or other spots, then detonate explosives to demolish structures or to loosen, remove, or displace earth, rock or other materials
- Insert, pack, and pour explosives such as dynamite, ammonium nitrate, black powder or slurries into blast holes, then shovel drill cuttings, admit water into boreholes and tamp material to compact charges
- Mark patterns, locations, and depths of charge holes for drilling and issue drilling instructions
- Compile and keep explosive records in compliance with local and federal laws
- Measure depths of drilled blast holes, using weighted tape measures
- Connect electrical wire to primers, and cover charges or fill blast holes with clay, drill chips, sand or other material

PREPARATION AND TRAINING FOR THIS POSITION

A high school diploma or GED is required for this position. Blasters typically are or have been working at a mine previously and have worked their way up through on-the-job training. Blasters must have a current State of Alaska Certification of Fitness for Explosive Handlers.



EDUCATION:

- * **HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED**
- * **CERTIFICATION OF FITNESS FOR EXPLOSIVE HANDLERS**