

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

- ▶ Grade 12 completion is usually required.
- ▶ Some experience as a heavy equipment operator may be required for drillers
- ▶ Experience as a blaster helper in surface mining and quarrying or construction may be required for blasters.
- ▶ A provincial blasting licence is usually required for blasters.

TRAINING

On-the-job training is often provided. If you are interested in completing Grade 12 or upgrading your skills, you have a number of options. Check out adult basic education programs at:

- ▶ The College of New Caledonia (CNC).
- ▶ Coast Mountain College.

If you have your Grade 12 and are interested in exploring your career options in exploration and mining, contact:

- ▶ General educational advisors or First Nations Access coordinators at Coast Mountain College.
- ▶ School of Exploration & Mining advisors at Coast Mountain College.
- ▶ Academic advisors at the College of New Caledonia.

CAREER ADVANCEMENT POTENTIAL

- ▶ Some drillers and blasters move into supervisory roles with experience.

DRILLERS & BLASTERS

Drillers operate machines to make blast holes in open-pit mines and quarries, and for building foundations at construction sites. Blasters fill these holes with explosives and detonate them to dislodge coal, ore and rock, or to demolish structures. People who work as drillers and blasters are usually employed by mining, quarrying and construction companies, and by drilling and blasting companies.



Image source: MiHR Council and iStock

JOB DESCRIPTION

Drillers and blasters often perform both drilling and blasting activities but we've separated the activities by role so you can see some or all of the different duties these individuals perform:

Drillers

- ▶ Drive and operate drilling machines that bore large blast holes in open-pit mines, quarries and on construction sites, and drill holes for building foundations and pilings.
- ▶ May measure location and stake out a pattern of holes to be drilled, load blast holes with explosives and detonate explosives to dislodge coal, ore or rock.

Blasters

- ▶ Read instructions or diagrams, lay out drill pattern; determine depth and diameter of blast holes and conduct field tests to determine type and quantity of explosives required.
- ▶ Assemble charges; load explosives; connect wires, detonating cords and fuses to blasting machines; and detonate charges.
- ▶ Handle, store and transport explosives and accessories in accordance with regulations and ensure that safety procedures are observed.