

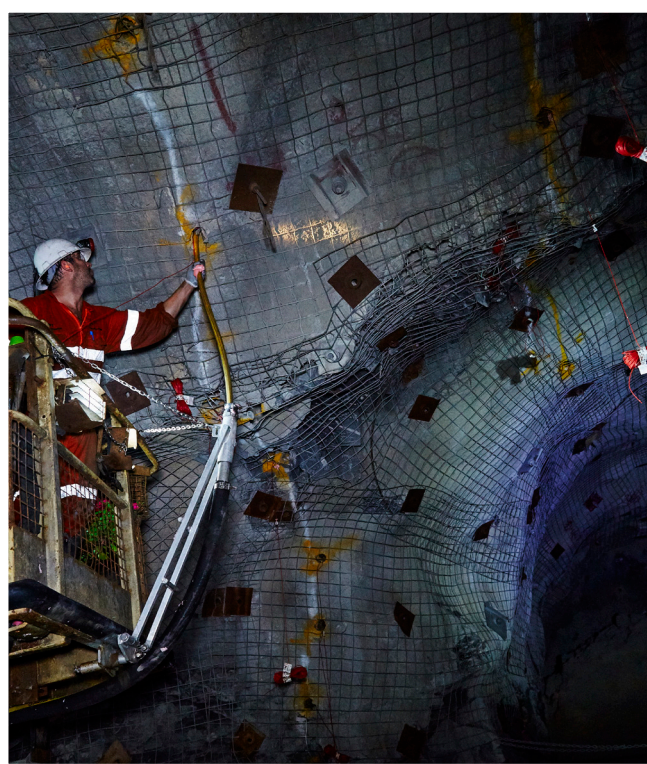
Shotfirer

Shotfirers assemble, position and detonate explosives at a mining site. Shotfirers may also be known as blasters.



Overview

Shotfirers prepare, position and detonate explosives to dislodge rocks and soil. The work is predominantly outdoors and underground. The job role suits someone who has strong concentration skills, excellent attention to detail and a good physical and medical fitness.



Day-to-day

- Check blasting areas to ensure they meet safety regulations
- Establish exclusion zones around and on the blast areas to ensure the safety of people, vehicles and surroundings
- Decide on the quantity of explosives required
- Use geological and blast design principles to assist in controlling detonation
- Insert detonators and charges into blast holes
- Connect and test or inspect the blasting circuit
- Fire charges
- Inspect the blasting area to make sure all explosives have detonated
- Check the site safety after blasting and declare the area safe or unsafe, for example in the case of rockfalls or fumes
- Manage explosive stock control

To become a Shotfirer

To become a shotfirer you usually have to obtain a licence for the appropriate class of work, and demonstrate knowledge in and practical application of the safe assembly of detonation and explosive materials. Licences are issued by the regulatory body in the State in which you reside. Training, work experience and supervision requirements may vary depending on the type of work you wish to carry out (for example, construction, mining or fireworks). To apply for a licence to work with explosives, you must be at least 18 years of age, pass a National Police Check, and provide a medical report.

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