

## Misfires found days after shot

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An operator was checking the area behind a shot that had been fired a few days earlier when he spotted two holes that had not fired. The area was immediately barricaded, and misfire procedures carried out.

On the day of the shot there were two holes loaded on a level five metres above the main pattern. The blasting time had been brought forward due to heavy fog in the area.

The shotfirer and the blast crew member had walked the pre-blast pattern to ensure the holes were all connected and accounted for correctly, checking that the hole count matched the total number of boosters and detonators being used for this blast.

Dealing with a misfire is potentially the most dangerous activity that site managers and shotfirers will be involved in during blasting operations. In the event of a misfire, it is likely that unexploded charges and detonators will be left in the face or in the muck pile.

We recommend that all sites review blast procedures, and misfire procedures, to ensure that:

- **Adequate pre-blast inspections are carried out to identify the potential for misfires.**
- **Adequate post-blast inspections are carried out to identify misfires or other potential hazards associated with the shot, before the area is declared safe to enter.**
- **Contractor management procedures include checks on Blast Management Plans and blasting procedures.**
- **Regular inspections are made of blasting activities.**

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.



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