Grit Blasting Incident. Initial notification

Incident Detail	Hazard	Control measures / possible solutions
Initial notification of a blasting incident where 'dead-man handle' function on the blasting equipment failed to operate but appropriate PPE had apparently not been used.		Pre-job training is necessary in the precautions and techniques to deal with the additional hazards of using high pressure tools when associated with rope access, over and above standard safety measures for blasting on the ground. See refs below
	Technician blasts himself, grit injection, severe abrasions, personal injury	Personnel must be trained and competent. Appropriate PPE must be available and worn & care taken that this does not impair operation of rope access equipment. Do not rely on own ability to maintain balance; feet should only be used to stabilise. To overcome reactive forces, subsidiary anchor lines should be used to tension the technician in position, in addition to being adequately braced. Tree surgeon type work-position devices with steel cored rope may help with body positioning. Dead man's lever to be tested as operational before blasting commences & standby personnel to perform emergency shut downs and test before use; Recovery system to be in place.
	Cutting through ropes causing fall, serious injury/fatality	Personnel should be attached to a back-up hard line [steel cable] out of range of the blasting nozzle, in case of damage to textile elements of the suspension system. The hard line should have minimal slack and be attached to a separate safety line and / or to the structure. Use of rope protectors may be necessary on other attachments. Standby personnel to perform emergency shut downs and test before use. Recovery system to be in place**.**
	Grit in eyes, excess noise, personal injury/disability	Appropriate PPE to be worn by standby personnel and those in the vicinity of operations.
Many e.g. confined entry or noisy work e.g. blasting etc	Communications failure/ difficulty	Pre–arranged hand signals used because a microphone is unsuitable when blasting. To contact the blaster the level 3 will cut off air supply [a common but effective technique] Recovery personnel to be in designated position at all times when personnel are working.
Change of platform status/ alert	Personnel unaware/ communication issue	In a general platform alert, personnel to vacate work site and go to muster station. Control room to be contacted by radio man. Pre–arranged signals to be arranged between personnel working in noisy environments before work begins.

References:
Abrasive Blasting: Code of Practice 2004 Queensland, Australia. http://www.deir.qld.gov.au/workplace/law/codes/abrasiveblast/index.htm

OPITO Trainee Blaster/Painter Training Standard: http://www.opito.com/library/industry_training_standards/blaster_painter_training_standard.pdf

Tournai Hall | Evelyn Woods Road | Aldershot | Hampshire | GU11 2LL
t: +44 (0) 1252 357839 | f: +44 (0) 1252 357831 | info@irata.org | www.irata.org
Chief Executive Officer: Roderick Dymott | Secretary: John G Fairley FSAE | IRATA is a Company Limited by Guarantee and Registered in England No: 3426704 | VAT Registration No: 529 0111 77