

Some observations on blasting practices in Malaysia.

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The paper is based on the author's observations of blasting practices in quarries and road cuts in Malaysia. Some common blasting problems are identified and discussed, such as the problems of over-break, toe problem, flyrock, insufficient fragmentation resulting in oversized boulders, safety, etc. Many of the problems discussed are attributed mainly to the fact that most personnels (blasters and project engineers) involved in blasting operations unfortunately lack the basic training and understanding in the basic principles of explosives engineering. Blasting is therefore carried out in an ad hoc manner guided by practical experience only.

The basic properties of explosives, influence of geological factors and the general principles for the design of blasting rounds are also discussed.