

# Safe Working Procedure

## 1.0 PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

MTI Group BlastBag™ (Gas bag) plugs are a self inflating blast hole blocker constructed from a pressurized aluminium aerosol can fitted with a valve and latching mechanism contained in two sealed nylon gas tight bladders and an outer scuff bag. An acetate tag is attached to the outer scuff bag to enable the bag to be connected to a drop cord facilitating the lowering of the BlastBag™ (Gasbag) plug down the blast hole. The aerosol canister is filled with a non toxic and non inflammable gas. MSDS sheet available from our website [www.mtigroup.com.au](http://www.mtigroup.com.au)

## 2.0 SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

2.1 This SWP details the safe handling procedures for aerosol inflated blast hole blockers and positioning of the blast hole blocker in a blast hole.

## 3.0 SAFETY AND HAZARDS

3.1 Aerosol canister prone to de-crimp if exposed to temperature over 50°C or in direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time.

3.2 Aerosol canister exploding after being punctured or incinerated.

3.3 Inhalation risk where inflated bag is discharged in enclosed area or many bags are lanced in quick succession - hazard inherent in all self inflating bags. \*

## 4.0 SAFE HANDLING PROCEDURES

4.1 Storage – Store as normal aerosol. Do not store above 50°C, do not store in direct sunlight, keep BlastBag™ plugs in box until ready for use.

4.2 Transport – Transport as UN1950 Class 2.2, Hazchem code 2Y.

4.3 Disposal – BlastBag™ / Gasbag plugs should be disposed of by first initiating the bag and allowing it to fully inflate. Bag should then be pierced in a well ventilated area and allowed to deflate prior to disposal. If an inflated bag needs to be removed from a blast hole, lance in position and remove from hole using drop cord, avoid breathing in gas. Although gas is non toxic, excessive levels can present asphyxiation risk as gas cannot be substituted for breathable air.

4.4 Overheating – Aerosol cans may explode due to expansion of gas if overheated. Do not approach if suspected of being hot.

4.5 Spills – Spills or leaking cans should be moved to a well ventilated area.

4.6 Enclosed areas – Although contents of aerosol are non toxic, injuries may be sustained through asphyxiation if cans are allowed to discharge in a confined space.

## 5.0 MATERIALS / EQUIPMENT

- 5.1 BlastBag™ Plug
- 5.2 Drop cord (string or rope)
- 5.3 PPE

## 6.0 METHOD

- 6.1 Select correct size BlastBag™ plug for appropriate hole and remove from carton just prior to use.
- 6.2 Determine what depth the bag is to be placed in the hole.
- 6.3 Prepare drop cord allowing an extra 1.5m to prevent a RSI from bending.
- 6.4 Either tie or clip the drop cord onto the tag at the top of the BlastBag™ plug, tie the loose end of the cord to your belt.
- 6.5 Grasp the canister firmly in one hand and with one firm movement of the thumb depress (or push, in the case of BlastBag™ Solo) the latching mechanism of the aerosol until the latch clicks and a steady stream of gas is emitted from the canister.
- 6.6 The BlastBag™ plug will now begin to inflate. Note after the mechanism has been latched the inflation process can not be stopped.
- 6.7 Quickly lower the BlastBag™ plug down to the required depth until the drop cord is tight.
- 6.8 After approximately 15 - 30 seconds the BlastBag™ plug will grip the walls of the blast hole.
- 6.9 Tugging the drop line will confirm the bag has gripped the walls of the blast hole.
- 6.10 A firm upward pull on the drop line will break the tag from the top of the BlastBag™ plug when in position allowing the drop cord to be retrieved.
- 6.11 If the bag needs to be removed from the blast hole this can be done by lancing the bag in situ, waiting for deflation and then retrieving the bag with the drop cord.
- 6.12 If a slower inflation time is required, the Solo model is equipped with a second speed achieved by pressing the trigger to the second notch. An additional tag can also be attached to the bottom of the bag and the bag introduced into the hole inverted. This will slow the release of gas further but is only recommended in holes up to 230mm.
- 6.13 For best results in all ground types, wait 5-10 min before loading BlastBag™ plug.

