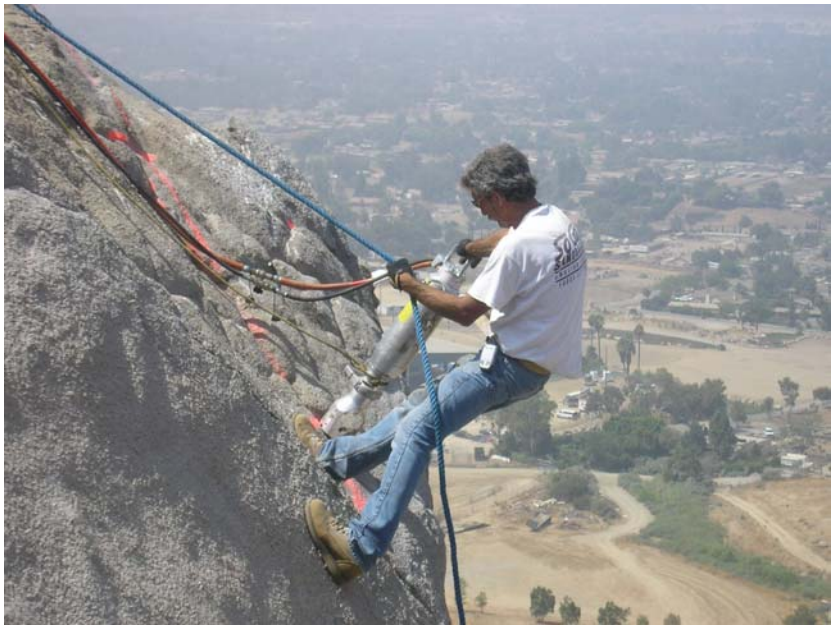
PRESS INFORMATION

Norco Rock Break

Located on the eastern hillside of Norco, California, in an equestrian/golf community, lies a housing development project. Its developer was faced with a challenge: The site's steep hillside and geotechnical terrain, including rocks as large as 10 feet by 20 feet by 12 feet. After research from the developer's geologist recently, it was determined that five boulders would need to be removed from the hillside for the safety of nearby home owners in case of a seismic event.

The size of the boulders and their location were the main problems to overcome in removing them. Blasting was not an option due to the proximity of the homes. The developer contacted So. Cal Sandbags, an erosion control specialist. That company tried jackhammers and breakers, as well as backhoes, digging trenches and footings, to no avail. Rebel Rents was then contacted and they suggested using an DARDA Hydraulic Rock and Concrete Splitter, powered by 500 bar pump. The splitting cylinder was placed into a drilled hole. Using hydraulic pressure, a wedge is pushed forward into the hole and forces the counter wedges surrounding it against the inner walls of the borehole. When tension increased beyond tensile strength of the rock, a split occurred, allowing the boulders to be split and removed piecemeal, in about two weeks.



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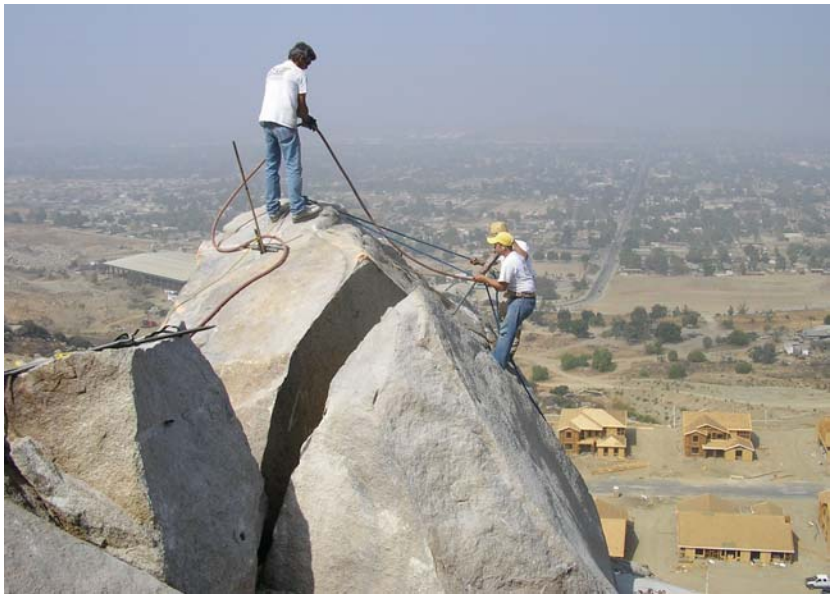

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