



Blueprints for Blue Origin's Launch Pad Rebuild Explored

Description

Blue Origin is facing significant challenges as it rebuilds its launch facilities after a recent test failure. This situation is important because it impacts the company's ability to conduct future space missions.

The incident involved Blue Origin's launch tower, which was badly damaged. Structural issues were found at the site, indicating that a lot of work needs to be done. This is similar to what SpaceX experienced after a failure in 2016 at its launch pad, known as SLC-40.

After that event, SpaceX could not start repairs until January 2017 due to an investigation. Engineers spent four months examining debris, which delayed the rebuilding process. They redesigned the launch pad during this time.

Trip Harriss, who managed operations for SpaceX's Falcon 9 rockets, said the entire team worked hard to support the investigation and repair efforts. The search for debris went on until early October when Hurricane Matthew forced them to stop.

SpaceX used drones and other high-tech equipment to collect information during this period. Harriss mentioned that they even sent a submersible into a water-filled trench, but it only found large pieces of concrete.

Launch pads are complicated structures that support rockets. They require strong steel towers and a lot of concrete for stability. Blue Origin will need to address many structural concerns to ensure the safety of its future launches.

Vocabulary List:

1. **rebuilds** //ri:'bɪldz// (verb): build something again after it was damaged
2. **facilities** //fə'sɪlɪtɪz// (noun): places and equipment used for a job
3. **incident** //'ɪnsɪdənt// (noun): an event that is not normal or expected
4. **structural** //'strʌktʃərəl// (adjective): related to how something is built or supported
5. **debris** //də'bri:// (noun): broken pieces left after something was damaged
6. **investigation** //ɪn,vɛstə'geɪʃən// (noun): careful search to find facts about something

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What company is facing significant challenges in rebuilding its launch facilities?
Option: SpaceX
Option: Blue Origin
Option: NASA
Option: Boeing
2. Which event delayed SpaceX's repairs at launch pad SLC-40?
Option: A hurricane
Option: An investigation
Option: A redesign
Option: A test failure
3. Who managed operations for SpaceX's Falcon 9 rockets?
Option: Elon Musk
Option: Trip Harriss
Option: Jeff Bezos
Option: Richard Branson
4. What technology did SpaceX use to assist in the collection of information after the failure?
Option: Satellites
Option: Drones
Option: Robots
Option: Computers
5. What structural element is required for the stability of launch pads?
Option: Wood
Option: Steel towers
Option: Plastic
Option: Glass
6. Until when did the search for debris go on after the Blue Origin incident?
Option: Early September
Option: Late October
Option: Early October
Option: Mid-November



True-False

7. Blue Origin's launch tower was undamaged after the recent test failure.
8. SpaceX started repairs on SLC-40 immediately after the 2016 failure.
9. Trip Harriss was responsible for managing the investigation at SpaceX.
10. Debris searches ceased due to Hurricane Matthew.
11. Blue Origin will not need to address any structural concerns for future launches.
12. Launch pads require a lot of concrete for stability.

Gap-Fill

13. Blue Origin is facing challenges as it rebuilds its launch facilities after a recent test failure, impacting its ability to conduct future space _____.
14. The incident involved Blue Origin's launch tower, which was badly _____ damaged.
15. SpaceX faced a delay in repairs after an investigation that lasted for four _____ a period of time.
16. SpaceX used drones and other high-tech equipment to collect _____ during the investigation.
17. Trip Harriss managed operations for SpaceX's Falcon 9 rockets and mentioned that the team worked hard to support the _____ efforts.
18. To ensure the safety of its future launches, Blue Origin will need to address many _____ concerns.



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Blue Origin 2. An investigation 3. Trip Harriss 4. Drones 5. Steel towers 6. Early October

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. missions 14. damaged 15. months 16. information 17. repair 18. structural

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL3

POST TAG

1. blue origin
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. launch pad
5. Level 3
6. spaceX

Tags

1. blue origin
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. launch pad
5. Level 3
6. spaceX

Date Created

2026/06/04

Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM