

March 1, 2012

Dear GW Student:

We'd like to share important information about upcoming work taking place at the Science and Engineering Hall construction site adjacent to your residence hall. Specifically, excavation has progressed to the point that the contractor for this project will begin controlled blasting activities on the project as soon as mid-March.

First, let us stress that these activities are highly monitored to ensure they fall within the regulated limits and do not adversely affect any adjacent structures. Also, we expect that this activity will have minimal impact on your day-to-day routine - the same as we experienced in 2008 during the several months of controlled blasting at the Square 54 for The Avenue. The university has undertaken numerous safety and security measures, including extensive site analysis. Also, seismographs have been installed in buildings around the site to monitor the vibrations during blasting operations and ensure that they are within accepted safety limits.

When blasting begins in mid- to late-March, it will occur on most, but not all, weekdays typically between 10:30-11:00 a.m. For many students, the most noticeable part of this activity will be the series of air horns that sound to notify the worksite and the public of the activity at 15 minutes, five minutes, and one minute prior to the blast, and immediately following the blast to indicate "all clear." The blasting activity itself will result in limited sound and vibration impacts that have been compared to that of a door slamming or a large truck passing and that last, at most, a few seconds (this will vary depending on a number of factors, including weather and site location).

Since this activity agitates soil, occupants of buildings immediately adjacent the site are asked to keep windows closed during the blasting period (residents will not need to evacuate building during this adjacent to the site will be closed temporarily in the few minutes before and during each blasting event and adjacent streets will be temporarily closed for a few minutes during the blasting events (at the direction of D.C. Metropolitan Police and with exceptions for emergency vehicles). Blasting materials will not be stored on site and, per DC regulations, materials for each day's activities will arrive in the morning via a silent police escort which will remain on site until after completion of the day's blasting when the materials are removed from the site.

We know you may have additional questions so we've included text from a factsheet that will be posted in the lobby of your building. We will also be sending GW InfoMails. Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for how we can better communicate with your fellow hall mates on this topic by emailing [talktogw@gwu.edu](mailto:talktogw@gwu.edu) or by tweeting @GWDOSHelps.

Sincerely,

Alicia O'Neil Knight  
Senior Associate Vice President of Operations

Peter Konwerski  
Senior Associate Vice President and Dean of Students