

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CONTROLLED BLASTING



1 What is controlled blasting?

Controlled blasting is a common type of work in construction of new buildings to break rock for excavation and occurs regularly in Washington D.C. Existing rock formations below the 2112 Pennsylvania Ave development site will be removed by drilling holes in the rock to insert materials that will be activated to loosen rocks. The Science and Engineering Hall, The Avenue, The Institute for Peace building at 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, NW are examples of blasting that has occurred recently within the vicinity.

Blasting activity will begin as early as June and occur once a day at either 10:30AM to 11:30AM or 1:30PM to 2:15PM Monday through Friday up to 2-3 months.



2 Is it safe?

Yes. The activity is conducted using safe methods and procedures by trained professionals. Blasts will be monitored by seismographs to maintain acceptable levels of ground motion in conjunction with vibration controls. The activity will occur after verification of all safety precautions and the site is deemed cleared and secure by the blaster-in-charge. All work is coordinated with applicable government agencies, including Metro, D.C. utilities and local/federal police forces, the bomb squad, as well as the surrounding medical and residential facilities.

Warning Signals

15 minutes	1 long horn signal
5 minutes	3 long horn signals
1 minute	Series of short signals
All Clear	1 prolonged horn blast

3 What can I expect to hear/see/feel?

Air horn safety signals will sound 15, 5 and 1 minute before the blast and at the conclusion of the blast. Those very near to the construction site may feel a vibration comparable to a door slam or a large truck driving down the street. The suddenness of an unexpected blast may make the vibrations seem more severe. Also, weather conditions (such as high humidity or the presence of a cloud cover) can cause the air movement from a blast to seem more severe than under other weather conditions). Dust suppression systems and heavy blasting mats will be in place to minimize vibration, debris and visual elements of this activity.

4 What should I do to prepare?

Residents living adjacent to the project site should keep windows closed for the brief period of the blasting, between the one-minute signal and the following all-clear signal. If you are near the construction site and hear an air horn, please be aware blasting activity will occur shortly and follow instructions of site personnel or any additional signage that may be posted.

5 Will sidewalks and/or streets be closed during the activity?

Yes, vehicular and pedestrian traffic on adjacent sidewalks and roads will be closed briefly during the activity, typically lasting 5-7 minutes (see map for closures).

