

## Why is blasting necessary?

Blasting of rock is the most cost-effective and time conserving method for rock excavation, mining, or quarrying operations. By improving the efficiency of the operation, the life of a construction project is shortened and the inconvenience to you is minimized.



## Will my house and my well be safe from blasting damage?

Over fifty years of research has been conducted in order to answer this question. Results obtained are used by federal, state and local governments to regulate ground vibration and sound. The blaster will design the blasts so that vibrations produced are well below the safe and regulatory limits recommended by government agencies. Blast vibrations can be controlled to prevent damage to adjacent structures, both above and below the surface of the ground.

Blasting is a highly specialized and regulated occupation. It requires years of

training and knowledge of the application of explosives and detonating accessories as well as safety of the blasters, the general public and their property. In Prince William County the Office of the Fire Marshal enforces blasting regulations.



## How are vibration and airblast measured and controlled?

During a blast, scientific instruments, called seismographs, measure the ground motion and noise from the blast to confirm for the blaster and homeowner that the vibration and airblast are within the safe limits. Digitized seismograph recordings allow the blaster to maintain the most effective and safe blasting designs while minimizing any inconvenience to you. Also, as a courtesy of the blasting company, the owners of the closest buildings to a blast are often given an opportunity to have an inspection before blasting starts. Pre-blast inspections provide detailed descriptions of the existing

conditions of your house and usually do not take more than two hours to perform.

## What will the blast feel or sound like?

Good blast design can control the level of vibrations and airblast, but not stop them. Therefore, you should not be surprised if you feel or hear a blast. The vibration you may experience is normally on the level of sound and vibration a home experiences through a normal use (door slam, etc.) the suddenness of an unexpected blast may make vibrations seem more severe than they really are.

Weather conditions, such as high humidity or the presence of cloud cover, can cause the airblast, from a blast, to seem more severe than there would be on a day when the humidity is low and there is lack of cloud cover.



## How can I help reduce the effects of blasting on my family and home?

We would suggest that you do the following:

- Learn more about blasting and its effects from this and similar material on the subject.
- Remember the blasting schedule and heed the warning signals to avoid surprises.
- Do not hesitate to ask questions or express your concern. Contact names and phone numbers are available for blasters conducting blasting operations through the Prince William County Fire Marshals Office. (703-792-6360)
- If you have a complaint about a blasting operation please contact the Prince William County Fire Marshals Office. All blasting complaints are investigated by a member of the Fire Marshals Office staff within 24 hours, whenever possible.
- Finally, please follow any instructions or signs posted around the construction project. The safety of you and your family largely depends upon you.

We hope we have answered most of your questions and helped you feel more comfortable with the blasting activity taking place in your neighborhood. Again, should you have any additional questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact the blasting company or the County Fire Marshal's Office.

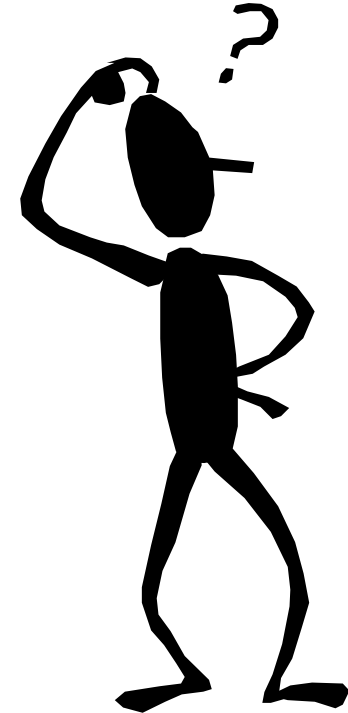
Contractor Information:

Contact Name:

Contact telephone number:

# Blasting....

## Why?



Prince William County  
Department of Fire and Rescue  
Fire Marshals Office  
9250 Lee Avenue  
Manassas, Virginia  
703-792-6360