



Blasting Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Information from the Wellesley Fire Department for property owners.

If I am close by, will I hear or feel the blast?

You may hear or feel a slight vibration from the blast depending on your distance from the blasting site. If you feel vibration, it does not necessarily mean that damage to your surroundings is occurring. You may also hear a series of three blasting signals (audible siren) as follows:

- Warning Signal: Three long siren blasts five minutes prior to blast signal.
- Blast Signal: Two siren blasts one minute prior to the shot.
- All Clear Signal: A prolonged siren blast following the inspection of the blast area.

Who from the Town is overseeing the blasting and what does that oversight look like?

The Wellesley Fire Department (WFD) issues all Permits to Blast in town. The permit is issued only if all the correct planning has taken place and all other conditions of 527 CMR 1 ch 65 have been met. Once the permit is issued and the work begins, WFD requires a firefighter present each time a blast takes place. The Town works with experienced and reputable blasting contractors who regularly perform these services.

What precautions should I take before the blasting starts?

527 CMR 1 ch 65.9.15.1.1 requires that any structure within 250-feet from the blast zone be offered a pre-blast survey. It is strongly recommended that you accept the offer. The survey is an inventory of the existing conditions of the property. It is also an opportunity for the property owner to ask questions and the blasting company to educate citizens. If you have concerns or questions, raise them during the pre-blast survey. The blasting company can answer questions and address concerns.

What do I do if I believe blasting damage has occurred to my home or property?

Notify the Wellesley Fire Department (WFD) within 30 days of the damage. WFD will assist you in facilitating the necessary paperwork.

Who can I call to get more information about a specific project?

The Wellesley Fire Department can answer your questions, and if needed refer you to the general contractor for that specific project. Please contact WFD at 781-235-1300.

For more information, [see the “Facts About Blasting” document](#) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Updated: November 1, 2023.