Little Hope Creek Wastewater Improvement Project Rock Blasting Frequently Asked Questions

Rock blasting is the safe removal of underground rock formations by using a series of controlled explosive charges placed underground. This standard construction procedure uses seismograph monitors to record vibrations to ensure they are within specifications. Heavy mats are used to cover each blast location to protect the surrounding area.

Why may blasting be necessary?

If the rock can't be cracked or loosened by traditional methods, these sections of rock will need to be broken by blasting with small amounts of dynamite. Controlled blasting occurs underground in holes drilled into the rock.

What can I expect when the blasting occurs?

Most rock blasts will occur between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Residents will hear a warning signal (air horn) prior to the blast, typically at five minutes and repeated one minute before the blast. There are typically two rock blasts per day; however, this may vary based on site conditions. For the safety of crew members and the community, it is imperative to heed all warning signals and any directions from the crew during blasting operations.



Residents may hear a warning horn, a muffled noise, and slight vibration or rumble, similar to a slammed door or thunder.



Heavy mats are placed on the blasting area to control impact.

Is blasting safe?

Blasting is a standard construction procedure and all safety precautions are being taken. These include blast planning and review procedures, blast controls including vibration and noise limitations, regular inspections and monitoring.

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QUESTIONS: For updates on project progress, please visit the project website at bit.ly/LittleHopeCreek or by visiting charlottenc.gov/littlehopecreek. Additionally, we offer text alert notifications for this project (see other side for details). If you have a question, please contact project manager Stephen Scott, (980) 219-9488 or Stephen.Scott@charlottenc.gov.