



Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Excavation is currently underway at the Griffin C. Pavilion construction site at Memorial Sloan Kettering. As part of this phase of construction, we will use **rock blasting** to clear rock from the site and lay new foundations. Rock blasting uses controlled explosives to break down rock for its safe removal.

Rock blasting is a common practice on construction projects across New York City. If you are in the immediate vicinity of the site, you may hear the blast ignition or feel small vibrations. You also may hear safety air horns, which are used throughout the process to alert workers and those nearby of an imminent blast and thereafter to signal the blasting is completed. Here's what you should know:

What is rock blasting?

Rock blasting uses controlled explosives to separate rock and reduce it to rubble for safe transport. In this case, we will use blasting to clear space for the foundation of the Griffin C. Pavilion. Rock blasting is common on construction projects across the city and is closely regulated by the Fire Department of New York City.

What will this excavation phase mean for me?

Community members in the immediate vicinity of the site may hear the detonation or feel small vibrations. Safety air horns will also be used on site before and after each blast and it's possible you may hear these horns.

We have instructed our engineers to calibrate their use and charge at far below the permitted limits. These factors will be studied following each blast to consider ways to further minimize their impact.

Blasting will not be continuous. It will be intermittent and followed by the removal of debris from the site by truck. In addition to blasting, we will use rock chipping, which could cause additional vibrations and noise.

What is the timeline for blasting?

The excavation phase of construction began in late November. Blasting activities within the excavation phase are scheduled to begin in February 2026. We expect blasting to conclude in August 2026.

Where can I learn more?

To learn more about the blasting process, please review [THIS](#) presentation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Community Affairs team by emailing CommunityAffairs@mskcc.org.