



Excavation is currently underway at the Kenneth C. Griffin Pavilion construction site at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. During this phase of construction, **rock blasting** is necessary to clear rock from the site and lay new foundations.

Rock blasting, which is a common practice on construction projects across New York City, uses controlled explosives to break down rock for its safe removal. If you are in the immediate vicinity of the site, you will hear the safety air horn preceding ignition, which are used to alert workers and those nearby of an imminent ignition and to signal the blasting has completed. You may also feel some vibration. 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 Kenneth C. Griffin Pavilion. Rock blasting is closely regulated by the Fire Department of New York City and is common on construction sites across the 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.