



## What is “blasting?”

Blasting is the process of cracking rock material by using a small and controlled amount of explosives. This allows for a quick and inexpensive way to remove rock. Site excavation for the Forest Road Connection Project and a surface parking lot on Forest Road will use a combination of mechanical methods (heavy excavation equipment) and blasting techniques to remove rock materials encountered on each site. The contractor will employ mechanical methods using heavy equipment (bulldozers and excavators with hydraulic rock hammers) to remove the weaker and less dense rock strata, and explosive (blasting) techniques to remove the harder and more dense rock strata. Please watch the videos at [www.forestroadconnection.com](http://www.forestroadconnection.com) to get an idea for what to expect when blasting occurs.

## Why is blasting needed on this project?

The city and their contractor, Fann Contracting, decided to incorporate blasting into this project based on the dense rock conditions and inexpensive method.

## When will blasting occur along Forest Road?

Crews anticipate blasting operations to begin along Forest Road near the end of November 2023 and continue periodically for a 2-month period. Residents directly affected will be notified of blasting 24 hours in advance of scheduled operations. This is subject to adjustment based on unanticipated contractor issues, weather delays, etc.

## Who is conducting the blasting along Forest Road?

Grand Canyon Shooters will be performing the blasting operations for the Forest Road Connection Project, with monitoring performed by Arizona Monitoring Services.

## How are blasts monitored?

Arizona Monitoring Services are serving as vibration consultants. In summer 2022, Arizona Monitoring Services conducted pre-blast condition surveys to residents within 500 feet of planned blasting sites to document the existing conditions of each resident’s home. When working closely to structures, seismic and air blast conditions are closely monitored. A blasting seismograph is set up prior to a blast and begins recording at threshold levels of vibrations, which is referred to as the trigger level. This level is set low enough to detect the blast vibrations, but high enough that it will not accidentally record non-blast vibrations (such as nearby human activity). Once triggered, the data is recorded, stored in the seismograph and evaluated to ensure the vibrations are within appropriate limits.

## Do I need to do anything prior to blasting operations happening?

If you live within 500 feet of a planned blasting area, you should have completed a pre-blast survey with Arizona Monitoring Services. If you do not live in this area, no action is required.

## Are you going to blow up the hillside?

The blasting operations along Forest Road will not “blow up” the hillside. The blasting operations being performed are small, controlled blasts to remove areas with dense rock. Please watch the videos at [www.forestroadconnection.com](http://www.forestroadconnection.com) to get an idea for what to expect when blasting occurs.



### **Will you be excavating and blasting the site of the potential Uptown Parking Garage?**

In the interim of the re-study efforts currently underway for the Uptown Sedona Parking Garage on Forest Road, the City will be excavating for the potential of establishing a surface level parking lot, but the full development of the Uptown Parking Garage will be dependent on the results from the re-study. The reason for excavating this site in coordination with the Forest Road Connection Project is three-fold:

1. to capitalize on the excavator contractor that will already be on site,
2. to use fill material from the excavation of the parking lot in the Forest Road Connection Project that the City would otherwise have to pay to haul in, and:
3. to build parking that is generally known to be needed in the south end of the Uptown area.

### **Do the Fire and Police Department know blasting is taking place?**

The Sedona Fire Department has been involved with the Forest Road Connection Project since 2022 and will issue blasting permits for this project during the scheduled blasting window. Both the Fire and Police Departments have been notified and are involved as this project progresses. A Fire Marshal will be present when blasting operations occur.

### **How will you make sure nobody is hurt from blasting operations?**

A Fire Marshal will be present during each scheduled blast, and rigorous pre-blasting preparations will take place to ensure nobody is hurt during these operations.

### **Where can I learn more about blasting?**

To learn more about this project and blasting, please visit [www.forestroadconnection.com](http://www.forestroadconnection.com) or call our Project Hotline at 928-852-4164. To receive regular project updates, email a request to [news@forestroadconnection.com](mailto:news@forestroadconnection.com).