

**Q. Who do I contact first, if I feel blasting has damaged my property?**

A. Contact the fire department at 913.888.6066. The fire department can check the blasting and monitoring records to see if any violations have occurred.

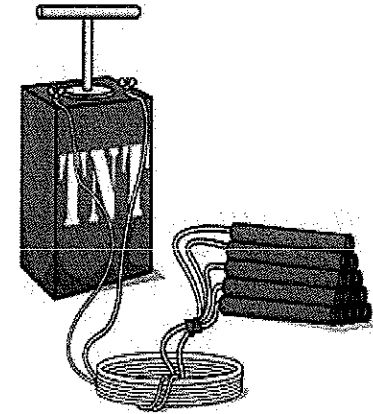
*For additional information on blasting or site-specific concerns, please contact the fire department at 913.888.6066.*

**OPFD**  
**Overland Park Fire Department**

9550 W 95th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66212



## Construction Site Blasting & Explosive Storage



**OPFD**  
**Overland Park Fire Department**

9550 W. 95th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
Phone: 913.888.6066  
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# Blasting

The fire department is responsible for issuing and maintaining records of all Explosives and Blasting Permits. Blasting is usually required on construction sites for the installation of sanitary sewer lines. These lines are placed fairly deep and often below bedrock which requires blasting for removal.

**Q. What are the minimum qualifications expected of the person doing the blasting?**

A. All blasting operations shall be carried out only by skilled and experienced personnel who are currently licensed by the state of Kansas to conduct blasting operations. For additional information contact the State Fire Marshal at 785.296.0660.

**Q. Is notification of adjoining property owners required?**

A. Whoever does the blasting is required by ordinance to notify adjoining property owners within 500 feet when and where blasting will occur. Additionally, they must offer to do a pre-blast survey.

**Q. What is a pre-blast survey?**

A. The survey is an inspection, usually photographed or videotaped, of the foundation and other parts of homes or other structures to document conditions prior to blasting. Technically, inspections are prescribed by a contractor's insurance carrier. Residents have the right to refuse a pre-blast survey.

**Q. Why wasn't a pre-blast survey done on my house?**

A. A pre-blast survey is done only if your house is within 500 feet of the blasting site.

**Q. Why should I allow a pre-blast survey?**

A. For your own protection. A pre-blast survey documents conditions before blasting is done. All parties are then aware of any damage caused by the blasting operations.

**Q. How is blasting monitored?**

A. Seismographs must be placed on the site to monitor vibration levels. The seismograph is typically placed on the property line at the closest home or structure. The maximum peak particle velocity at any such recording site must not exceed one inch per second. This level is one-half the standard set by the federal government.

Additionally, blasting operations must be carried out in such a manner that they will not cause fly rock or damage from air blast overpressure or ground vibration.

**Q. Does the city inspect the blasting operations?**

A. The blasting contractor must keep a daily blasting log for all blasting operations and make it available for inspection by the fire department or designee. The fire department may also make periodic inspections and check the seismograph records, but are not present at all blasting operations.

**Q. Will the blasting damage my house?**

A. The City's standard for vibration levels was set at one inch per second because it is one-half of the level set by the federal government as being safe for frame houses. Although people start feeling blasts at .05 inches per second, a structure can withstand considerably higher levels.

**Q. How close to the property line can blasting be done?**

A. Blasting can be done anywhere on an adjoining property as long as it is done in a manner that does not damage adjoining property and seismograph readings do not exceed 1 inch per second.

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