



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)  
**BLASTING RULES AND PROCEDURES**

**1.0 General:**

All blasting work shall comply with the following regulations:

- City Ordinance, Chapter 5, Article VII: Section 5:702 Blasting Permit Required;
- State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction dated March 2016;
- Storage and Transportation of explosives shall be in accordance with State of New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules: Chapter/Part Saf-C 1600.  
**In case of conflict, the more stringent regulation shall govern.**

**2.0 Insurance:**

- 2.1 The blasting contractor shall procure and maintain \$5,000,000 of personal injury and property damage liability insurance covering the permitted blasting operations, or such an amount as may be determined necessary by extraordinary circumstances.
- 2.2 The Certificate shall name the City as an additional insured.

**3.0 Blasting Permit Process:**

- 3.1 The blasting contractor shall apply for a permit online through the City's permitting center at: <https://portsmouthnh.viewpointcloud.com> before commencing the pre-blast survey procedure.
- 3.2 At the time of application, the blasting contractor shall provide the following items:
- a) Plan showing location, extent and purpose of proposed blasting operations.
  - b) Project narrative describing scope of work, proposed dates of work, office phone number and twenty-four (24) hour cell phone number for the project manager on company letterhead.
  - c) Copy of valid New Hampshire License to Use, Purchase and Transport Explosives for the blasting company.
  - d) Copy of valid New Hampshire Certificate of Competency For Blasting Operations for each operator.
  - e) Copy of valid Insurance Certificate as required by Article VII, Section 5:702 and defined in Section 2.0.

f) Additional documentation required is noted below in Section 4.0.

**4.0 Pre-Blast Condition Surveys:**

- 4.1 Pre-blast surveys shall be performed as required in City Ordinance, Chapter 5, Article VII, Section 5:702, and the following procedures will apply.
- 4.2 The pre-blast condition survey shall consist of a written description of the interior and exterior condition of each of the structures examined. Descriptions shall locate any existing cracks, damage or other defects and shall include such information so as to make it possible to determine the effect, if any, of the construction operations on the defect. Where significant cracks or damage exist, or for defects too complicated to describe in words, photographs shall be taken. A good quality videotape survey with appropriate audio description of locations, and conditions, and defects can be used.
- 4.3 Pre-blast contractor shall send a pre-blast survey letter by certified mail to all abutters within a 500-foot radius of the blasting site, with copies of the letter sent also to:

Director of Public Works  
680 Peverly Hill Road  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

City Manager  
City Hall  
1 Junkins Avenue  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Fire Chief  
170 Court Street  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Chief of Police  
3 Junkins Avenue  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Zoning Officer  
City Hall, Legal Dept.  
1 Junkins Avenue  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Chief Building Inspector  
City Hall  
1 Junkins Avenue  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Environmental Planner  
City Hall, Planning Dept.  
1 Junkins Avenue  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

- 4.4 The pre-blast survey company shall make at least three attempts over a minimum 1-week period to contact a property owner before that property is listed as non-respondent.
- 4.5 Copies of the pre-blast condition survey shall be made available to the Department of Public Works and/or the property owner upon request. The blasting company shall maintain copies of all pre-blast survey records for a period of no less than one year from the completion of the blasting operations.
- 4.6 Before the issuance of a Blasting Permit, the blasting contractor shall submit to the Department of Public Works a list of all properties within the 500-foot radius of the blasting. The list shall include names and addresses, with tax map and lot numbers, of all abutters within the 500-

foot radius and the status of the survey (completed, refused or non-respondent).

## **5.0 Blasting Permit:**

- 5.1 The blasting contractor shall upload all documents described in Sections 2, 3 and 4 of these procedures online through the City's permitting center at: <https://portsmouthnh.viewpointcloud.com>
- 5.2 The review process by City staff may take at least two (2) weeks.
- 5.3 A copy of the certified mail recipients of the blasting notification letter shall be submitted prior to issuance of the permit. Copies of the certified letter shall also be sent the City Manager, Director of Public Works, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Zoning Officer, Chief Building Inspector and Environmental Planner, indicating when the blasting is scheduled to begin.
- 5.4 The permit will be approved and printed through the City's permitting center at: <https://portsmouthnh.viewpointcloud.com>
- 5.5 Effective July 1, 2017 a permit fee of \$100.00 will be charged.

## **6.0 Blasting Operations:**

- 6.1 All blasting operations shall be conducted in accordance with State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation Standard Specifications dated March 2016.
- 6.2 All blasting operations shall require vibration measuring equipment meeting the following minimum requirements:
  - a) Measure, display, and provide a permanent record on a strip chart of particle velocity components.
  - b) Measure three mutually perpendicular components of particle velocity in directions vertical, radial, and perpendicular to the vibration source.
  - c) Have a velocity frequency response of 2 Hz to 150 Hz and be capable of measuring Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) of up to 250 mm/s (10 in/s)
  - d) All seismographs used shall display the date of the most recent calibration.
  - e) Calibration must have been performed within the last 12 months and must be performed to a standard traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- 6.3 The blasting contractor shall maintain daily logs of all blasting activities. Those records, including seismic monitoring records shall be made available to the City of Portsmouth for a period of five years.

Please contact the following City staff member for questions:

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