



Information Bulletin: Controlled Blasting Operation

Scaling crews are continuing to remove dangerous rocks on the face of the landslide to provide safe working conditions and to avoid a landslide from occurring in the future. This afternoon a larger piece of overhanging rock will be removed through controlled blasting. This rock was not able to be detached through the variety of hand tools used on the cliff face.

Blasting preparation follows detailed instructions from blasting specialists. Preparation consists of the rock scaling crew carefully drilling 50 holes into the rock that are approximately 20 feet deep and two and a half inches in diameter in predetermined locations. The detonators are non-toxic. These holes, as shown in figure one and two, have been carefully designed to restrict the size of rocks that will detach, which prevents harming fish that may be below.

The blasting team consists of qualified experts who specialize in executing controlled detonations in a safe and contained manner. This process will only remove the minimum amount of rock required while preserving as much of the natural land as possible. First Nations continue to assess all areas to ensure archeological values are protected. The integration of aboriginal interests into all aspects of operations remains a priority.

Transport Canada has closed a small section of the Fraser River in the immediate blast area. Conservation and protection officers will be located both upstream and downstream of the blasting location to ensure that there is no vessel traffic. Once blasting has concluded and a safe working area is established, personnel will be able to implement additional actions.

Please keep in mind that the controlled detonations will emit a noise that may be heard in nearby areas.



Figure 1. Holes drilled by scaling crews.



Figure 2. Scaling crews drilling holes to prepare for the controlled blasting operation.