




Interstate 90 CONSTRUCTION

Hyak to Keechelus Dam Project

Controlled Rock Blasting on I-90

Monday - Thursday evening temporary closures

Crews will perform controlled rock blasting near the snowshed east of Snoqualmie Pass to widen I-90 from four to six lanes.

From now until Labor Day, crews will perform controlled rock blasting activities nightly from approximately 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. After Labor Day until late October, crews will temporarily close the highway from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, for controlled rock blasting activities.



Access to Rock Slope

Contractor crews clear rock slopes of trees and create a working area for equipment and crews.



Bore holes are drilled

Equipment placed on the rock slope drills holes in precise locations to achieve optimal blasting.



Explosive are placed

Blasting crews place explosive material into bore holes and set up timed detonations according to blasting plans.



Controlled rock blast

WSDOT closes the highway at sunset and crews detonate the blast. The highly controlled blast is contained on the rock slope and allows rocks to fall behind high strength wire fencing. This fence keeps large debris off the highway.



Safety inspection

Crews visually inspect the rock slope for loose material and other safety concerns before allowing equipment in the blast area.



Clearing of roadway

Crews use excavators and bulldozers to remove rocks from the shoulder, ditch, and other large debris from the rock slope. WSDOT opens the highway once the roadway is clear. Crews stop traffic from 30 minutes to 1 hour, depending on the size of the blast.