

## Blast Vibration

*How can I tell the difference between a mine blast and an earthquake?*

None of us like the thought of an earthquake happening, so it is important that we all know the difference between the small vibration caused by a mine blast and the much larger vibration caused by an earthquake.

Here are some important things to remember:

Correnso blasts are scheduled to happen up to three times a day during meal breaks, currently between 7.00am and 8.00am, 1.00pm and 2.00pm, and 7.00pm and 8.00pm. We will use our best endeavours to ensure that they happen between these times. The blast in the middle of the day will be the larger production blast, the other two are more likely to be development blasts. Blasts must not be longer than 12 seconds. Most will be shorter. You can be notified about blast times if you log on to our website [www.waihigold.co.nz](http://www.waihigold.co.nz) to find out when the next blast is scheduled and where it will occur.

- If you feel a small vibration during any of the above times, and it lasts no more than 5-10 seconds, then it will most likely be vibration from a blast.
- There will be no night time blasting. There will also be no blasting on Sundays or public holidays.
- Outside of these times, much longer than 10 seconds, or a vibration which is stronger or more intense is not a mine blast.

### What's the difference?

A mine blast produces a comparatively small vibration that travels through the ground and lasts a few seconds. In some instances mine blasts can make crockery rattle or the ground tremble for a short period of time. The vibration gets less as the distance from the blast increases, so different people will feel different effects depending on where they live and in what part of the mine we are working. A distant earthquake can sometimes produce similar kinds of vibration. If it is distant, an earthquake is not going to cause damage and there is no cause for concern.

An earthquake that is closer will be very different. The vibration will be sudden, sharper and stronger. It will probably not happen during the times we usually associate with blasting. It may be longer than 10 seconds. Objects in your house may move. You have no doubt seen these events on television with objects falling off shelves or loose objects moving around.

### In summary

- Mine blasts occur at regular times.
- Blast vibration is comparatively small.
- You can be notified about blast times or find out when the next blast is by checking our website.
- Earthquakes do not start small and then get bigger. They arrive suddenly.
- If you feel a small vibration it will either be a mine blast or an earthquake a long way off. In both cases, there is no need for concern.