

Dam Safety Planning Workshop

Planning Reference Guide and Information Source for Dam Owner/Operators & Local Emergency Management Officials

Local Emergency Management

- Local emergency planning efforts should include consideration of a dam failure event in the hazard analysis process.
- Local emergency planners should utilize the EAP to:
 - Gain insight into dam owner/ operator operations.
 - Jointly pre-plan for events as appropriate.
 - Ensure proper off-site notifications.
 - Identify what the jurisdiction should plan for.
 - Build relationships and information sharing.
- The EAP should not be considered as the jurisdiction's emergency plan in the event of a dam failure.
- The local flood plan should not be considered a sufficient planning substitute for a Dam Failure Emergency Annex.
- A local government representative should be designated to serve as a liaison to participate in the development of the operator's EAP and coordinate planning efforts, communication, training, and risk reduction efforts between the operator, local government, and the community.
- Regulations do not require local government to develop disaster plans or an EAP. However, regulations do require plan review and input on behalf of local government.
- A Dam Failure Emergency Annex should be developed to supplement the local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
 - The annex should be consistent with the tenets of the over-arching CEMP and follow an outline similar to the following:

- Introduction
- Purpose
- Scope
- Situation/Assumptions
- Policy/Authorities
- Concept of Operations
- Risk Reduction
- Response
- Recovery
- Attachments

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- Response posture and activities; including alert and warning, activation levels, and triggers should be developed with consideration of the dam's condition level described in the EAP.
- The scalable activation/response levels common to local emergency plans should be tied to the dam's on-site condition levels. Response operations may include:

- Multi-agency coordination.
- Quickly initiate pre-planned activities.
- Notification protocols.
- Evacuation, access, egress, and rescue.
- Impacts on infrastructure.
- Fatality management.
- Debris, contamination, public health issues.
- Human needs, sheltering, pets.
- Security, protection, and enforcement.

- Inundation maps are technically superior to flood maps and should be used to identify vulnerable populations and infrastructure, down-stream distances/flood arrival times, flood inundation levels, response and evacuation routes, and shelter locations.
- Risk Reduction goals of the local emergency management organization should include:
 - The development of a Dam Failure Annex to the local CEMP, including agency-specific planning to support the annex.
 - Public education to address issues including risk perception, complacency, and individual(family) preparedness.
 - Enhance public warning capability including EAS, pre-canned messaging, route alerting, and NY-Alert.
 - Suitable shelter location(s) given a dam failure emergency.
 - Flood inundation area management practices.
- Recovery goals of a Dam Failure Annex should identify hazard-specific concerns, including social and economic issues, human needs, public health, and mitigation.