

## Significant Hazard Emergency Action Plans

### Background

Since 1983, the Kansas Rules and Regulations associated with the Obstructions in Streams Act have required an Emergency Action Plan to be included with all permit applications submitted for Class C high hazard dams. As of May 18, 2007, a new requirement mandated owners of each Class B significant hazard dam also to submit an EAP on the form Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources, has available on the KDA website at [www.ksda.gov/structures/](http://www.ksda.gov/structures/).

### EAP Requirements

This EAP is to address each of the following:

- Name, address, and telephone number of each owner of the dam and also those persons responsible for operation and maintenance of the dam.
- Name, address, and telephone numbers of the person responsible for notifying local authorities in an emergency. This may be the owner, tenant, or other persons.
- Description of the dam, including the location of roads that provide access to the dam during flood events or dam breaches.
- Map or written description of area that could be inundated by breach of the dam. (State rules and regulations establish guidelines for breach analysis although a breach analysis may not be required for a significant hazard dam.)
- List of persons who should be notified in case of emergency, including their telephone numbers and responsibilities.

Owners of dams for which an EAP is required must annually review the EAP to determine whether it is accurate and applicable to the dam's current condition, including current downstream conditions. The following needs to be addressed in this review:

1. Determine whether contact names and related information are still current and up to date.

2. Determine whether the breach inundation map or description of the inundation area is current.
3. Check emergency procedures to verify that changes aren't necessary. Make any changes to the EAP needed and send a copy of the revised EAP to the chief engineer at DWR.
4. If any changes are made to the EAP, then a revised copy must be sent to the chief engineer.





This Kansas dam owned by a watershed district had been renovated a year before this failure occurred. During a July storm, a passerby noted that water was discharging from a point on the dam well above the pipe outlet. Classified as a significant hazard dam, this dam did not fail abruptly; Kansas Department of Transportation monitored it throughout the night, ready to close the U.S. highway 300 feet below the dam. Note: The dark hole in the center dam that extends onward was linked to a rodent hole and internal erosion. Pictured are two watershed board members; Vic Robbins, the district's engineer; and Matt Scherer, DWR, on the day after the failure. *Photo by Joe File.*

When an unusual event occurs at a dam, it may not be necessary to implement the EAP. However, the owner should increase monitoring of the dam and implementation of the EAP may be required at a later time should the dam continue to deteriorate, or further problems develop.

If a dam is in danger of failing or failure is imminent or in progress, the dam owner or his or her representative should immediately contact the local emergency services and /or the sheriff. Emergency management and other responders then will implement the EAP.

Because they are in charge of response after notification, emergency personnel need to be involved in developing and approving the EAP. These responders will then notify property owners and other persons downstream who may be in the path of a possible dam breach.

They will also contact others included in the EAP, including DWR that has a toll-free emergency number 800-915-6163 maintained 24 hours a day.

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