



Wildfire Impacts on Dams

Please read, then insert into the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for your dam.

Emergency Level 1 - Non-emergency, unusual event; needs response to reduce risk or likelihood of a Level 2 incident

- Incident: **Wildfire at the dam or in the upstream watershed.**
Responses:
 - Inspect and assess damage to dam, spillways, and appurtenant facilities.
 - Assess whether access to the dam may be vulnerable to blockage by debris flows.
 - Assess whether spillways may be vulnerable to blockage by debris flows or by floating debris in the reservoir.
 - Assess increased hydrologic risk. Watershed assessment by a qualified engineer or engineering hydrologist. See Burned Watershed guidance from the Dam Safety Office at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/dams/GuidanceDocs.html>
 - Determine access routes and procedures for safe access to the dam during adverse conditions, and communications procedures to activate the EAP.

- Incident: **Forecast for rain** in the vicinity of the dam or upstream watershed.
Responses:
 - Observe for actual rainfall, be prepared to respond.

- Incident: **Flash Flood Watch** (not Warning) issued by National Weather Service for the vicinity of the dam or upstream watershed.
Responses:
 - Observe for actual rainfall, be prepared to respond.

- Incident: **Actual rain** in the vicinity of the dam or upstream watershed.
Responses:
 - Observe runoff and spillway performance, be prepared to respond.

Emergency Level 2 - potential failure situation; needs timely response to reduce risk or likelihood of a dam failure

- Incident: **Forecast for heavy rain** in the vicinity of the dam or upstream watershed.
Responses:
 - Observe for actual rainfall, be prepared to respond.

- Incident: **Flash Flood Warning** issued by National Weather Service for the vicinity of the dam or upstream watershed.
Responses:
 - Observe for actual rainfall, be prepared to respond.

- Incident: **Heavy rain or thunderstorm** in the vicinity of the dam or upstream watershed.
Responses:
 - Observe runoff and spillway performance, be prepared to respond.

Wildfire Impacts on Dams (con't)

Emergency Level 3 - urgent; dam failure is imminent

- Incident: **Spillway begins to erode**
Response:
 - Follow Level 3 protocol in your EAP.

- Incident: **Dam overtopping**
Response:
 - Follow Level 3 protocol in your EAP.