

Focus on: Online Resources for Dam Owners and Operators



Figure 1. Zosel Dam, Okanagan County, engineers at work

Resources for dam owners and operators

If you own or manage a dam and have questions, we have the resources for you! Many topics are available free online. Below is a brief list of available resources.

The Department of Ecology, Dam Safety Office

If you have questions or need guidance, Ecology's Dam Safety Office is ready to help. For the services we provide, please contact us directly at: 360-407-6872, or access our website at: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Dams>.

The Dam Safety Office provides guidance and publications covering many topics, including:

- Emergency planning and response
- Construction and maintenance
- Inspection services
- Rules and regulations
- [*"Inventory of Dams in the State of Washington,"*](#)¹ otherwise known as "Inventory of Dams Report."

Printed copies are available by calling 360-407-6872, or by emailing us at WRpubs@ecy.wa.gov

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/94016.html>

Many of the resource sites listed below can also provide printed documents. Refer to the individual websites for availability.

National Inventory of Dams, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- <https://nid.usace.army.mil>

To learn about the more than 90,000 dams nationwide, visit the National Inventory of Dams (NID) website. This site includes resources, maps, and FAQs about dams. Ecology's Dam Safety Office provides information to the NID for Washington State dams.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

- <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/dam-safety>

FEMA has extensive resources available, explore this site for guidance on dam safety, planning, grants, and more. The National Dam Safety Program provides a variety of publications, including:

- Research Needs Workshop Reports
- Technical Manuals, Guides, Reports, and Advisories
- Safety Series Fact Sheets
- Response and Recovery (R&R) Dam Response Operations Matrices
- Dam Safety & Risk MAP/Flood Mapping Studies Fact Sheet Series
- DSS-WISE Fact Sheets
- Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety, Emergency Action Planning for Dams:
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/eap_federal_guidelines_fema_p-64.pdf

Association of State Dam Safety Officials & the Dam Owner Academy

- <https://damsafety.org/dam-owners>

ASDSO's Dam Safety Resource Database contains more than 10,000 entries referencing dam safety publications available to dam owners, local and state officials, and the general public. Topics cover a wide variety of dam safety issues, including technical and non-technical areas, history, best practices, regulations, news, and more.

- <https://damsafety.org/resource/search>

Also available from ASDSO is the Dam Owner Academy, a series of free videos on YouTube to educate and inform owners on all aspects of safely operating and maintaining dams. Search "Dam Owner Academy" for the following topics.

- Dams 101
- Dam inspections
- Spillway & outlet works

- Operation & maintenance plans
- Emergency planning
- Extreme rainfall events
- Hiring an experienced and qualified dam engineer
- Rehabilitation projects

Other sites of interest:

Local Emergency Planning Committees

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Reporting-requirements/Emergency-Planning-Community-Right-to-Know-Act/Local-Emergency-Planning-Committees>

Ecology maintains a list of local emergency planning committees on this site, sorted by county. If you have questions on preparedness or who may be the emergency contact for your area, this is the place to start.

Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) are made up of a variety of representatives across Washington. These representatives are responsible for:

- Developing a local emergency plan for their district.
- Collecting information submitted by your business.

Washington State Governor's Office of Regulatory Innovation and Assistance, ORIA

- <https://www.oria.wa.gov>
- 1-800-917-0043

“Guiding you through Washington state's regulations. Our service is free, and we are ready to help.”

If you have a project that may require permits, ORIA is a great place to start, but always check with local and county regulators.



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To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6872 or email at Rachel.Ditlevsen@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341

DAMS OF WASHINGTON

Dam Safety Office
Washington State Department of Ecology

