

## Who Uses EAPs?

- Dam owners
- Emergency Management Directors
- Emergency responders
- State and Municipal Officials
- Downstream residents
- Businesses/Agriculture
- Schools/Hospitals/Nursing Homes
- Transportation/Utilities

## How to Create an EAP

1. Coordinate with your Local Emergency Management Director. They are the best source for emergency contacts and other pertinent information, and will generally be the lead on creating the plan.
2. It is recommended the plan lead utilize the RIEMA/RI DEM EAP template to generate the plan.
3. Attend training on EAPs, when available.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) will assist with engineering data & dam failure inundation maps.

Cover Photo: A state road immediately downstream of Glen Rock Reservoir Dam (#236) in South Kingstown, which was washed out during the 2010 floods.

## Learn More About EAPs

### RIEMA

Phone: 401-946-9996

Website: [www.riema.ri.gov](http://www.riema.ri.gov)

### RI DEM

Office of Compliance and Inspection  
Dam Safety Program

Phone: 401-222-1360

Website: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/>

### Additional Resources

Association of State Dam Safety Officials:  
<http://www.damsafety.org>

Federal Emergency Management Agency:  
<http://www.fema.gov/>

Dept. of Homeland Security - Dam Sector:  
<http://www.dhs.gov/dams-sector>

FEMA Independent Study Program:  
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/>



This image was taken in 2006 at Blue Pond Dam (#229) in Hopkinton. The dam failed during the March/April 2010 flood.

# DAM EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS

A FUNCTIONAL GUIDE TO EAPs



Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency  
Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management

# DAM EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS (EAPs)

## What is a Dam EAP?

A Dam Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is a plan of action to reduce potential property damage and loss of life in an area affected by a dam failure.

An EAP may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Dam location and engineering data
- Dam ownership information
- Definitions of dam emergency situations and responses
- A prioritized 'call tree' for notifications
- A dam failure inundation map of potential affected areas
- Other crucial information

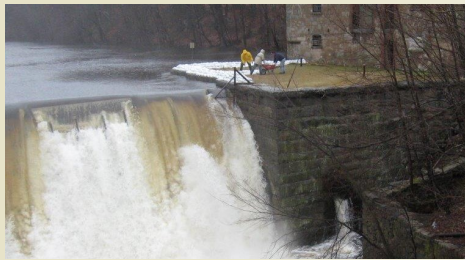
## The EAP Purpose

- Identifies the areas, structures, facilities and roads that could be affected by dam failure.
- Establishes a monitoring system which can activate the plan.
- Identifies the corresponding official(s), organizations, and agencies along with their responsibilities in regards to implementing the plan.

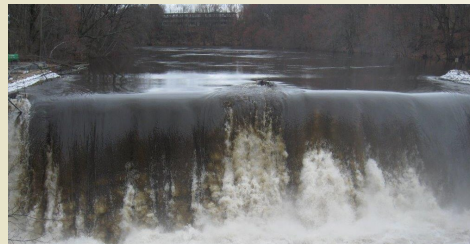
## Why Does an EAP Matter?

- It's the law : RIGL § 46-19-9 <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE46/46-19/46-19-9.HTM>.
- EAPs save lives.
- EAPs guide evacuation planning.
- All high and significant hazard dams must have an EAP. An EAP is not considered complete until it is approved by both Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM).

## Every High & Significant Hazard Dam Needs an EAP!



Sandbags are being placed at the Arctic Dam in West Warwick.



The Arctic Dam in West Warwick during the 2010 flood.

## Rhode Island DEM's

### 3-Tier Classification System

The RI DEM uses a 3-tier system, which rates dams based upon the probable consequences of a failure.

**High Hazard:** Failure or mis-operation of a dam will result in a probable loss of human life.

**Significant Hazard:** Failure or mis-operation of a dam results in no probable loss of human life, but can cause major economic loss, disruption of lifeline facilities or impact to the public's health, safety or welfare.

**Low Hazard:** Failure or mis-operation of a dam results in no probable loss of human life and low economic losses.

- Any dam owner may be ordered to create an EAP regardless of hazard classification if deemed necessary by RI DEM.
- EAPs shall be updated annually by the party or parties responsible and copies shall be given to RIEMA, RI DEM, local municipality or local emergency management agency and the local police department.
- State agencies that own dams are responsible for creating dam EAPs for all high and significant dams in cooperation with the local municipality.