



FEMA

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Congressional Advisory: FEMA Observes National Dam Safety Awareness Day

May 30, 2017

FEMA encourages our partners to join us in supporting National Dam Safety Awareness Day on **Wednesday, May 31**. The day serves as a reminder of the tragic failure of the South Fork Dam in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on May 31, 1889. The incident resulted in the loss of more than 2,200 lives, and was the worst dam failure in the history of the United States.

Approximately 15,000 dams in the United States are classified as high-hazard potential, meaning that their failure could result in the loss of life. Dams could fail for a number of reasons, including overtopping caused by floods, acts of sabotage, or structural failure of materials used in dam construction. Recent events such as the Oroville (California) dam spillway incident serve as an important reminder to all Americans of the importance of [dam safety](#), and why we should be aware of the potential risk of dam failures in their communities.

FEMA's [National Dam Safety Program](#) is committed to raising public awareness of dam safety by assisting states in establishing and maintaining dam safety programs, providing technical training to state and federal dam safety staff, and supporting research and the development of guidance to advance the practice of dam safety to improve public safety.

FEMA has a wide range of [Dam Safety Publications & Resources](#) to help you become "dam safety aware" including:

- [Be Aware of Potential Dam Failure in Your Community Fact Sheet](#)
- [Living With Dams: Know Your Risk](#)
- [Catalog of FEMA Dam Safety Resources](#)

To learn how you can support National Dam Safety Awareness Day in your community, visit the [Association of State Dam Safety Officials \(ASDSO\)](#).

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