



F.E.R.C. Dam Failure Emergency Exercise Evening of Friday, August 17, 2018

**EXERCISE
IN
PROGRESS**

In accordance with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requirements, Newaygo County Emergency Services in collaboration with local and state public safety partners will be conducting a test of the Hardy Dam Failure Emergency Plan in your area on Friday, August 17, 2018.

During this exercise you can expect:

- To hear the dam failure sirens be tested on Friday, August 17th in the evening.
- To receive a Nixle alert with additional information on the simulated emergency activities taking place in the area.
- To see multiple public safety vehicles in the area, potentially including aircraft.
- Public Safety Officials conducting door-to-door notifications within the areas of the Hardy Dam Failure inundation area.

During this exercise you should:

- Know that this is **ONLY training**.
- Only call 9-1-1 to report a real emergency.
- Follow all instructions given to you from the local and state public safety partners.

If this were a **REAL** dam failure emergency:

- If you live on or are immediately adjacent to the Muskegon River below the Hardy Dam, your neighborhood is in an identified dam failure inundation area.
- **A FLASH FLOOD WARNING WILL BE ISSUED!** The US National Weather Service Grand Rapids Office will issue a Flash Flood Warning for the Muskegon River. A Flash Flood Warning is issued to inform the public, emergency management and other cooperating agencies that flash flooding is in progress, imminent, or highly likely. Flash Flood Warnings are urgent messages as dangerous flooding can develop very rapidly, with a serious threat to life and/or property. Flash Flood Warnings are usually issued minutes to hours in advance of the onset of flooding.
- **LISTEN FOR THE DAM FAILURE SIRENS!** The Dam Failure Public Warning Siren System below Hardy Dam to Devil's Hole in Brooks Township would be activated. If you hear the siren, immediately evacuate to higher ground.
- **MONITOR NIXLE!** Additional warning information will be released via Nixle. Nixle is the County's Alert and Notification System. You can subscribe for FREE by texting NewaygoES to 888777.

Please contact the Newaygo County Emergency Services Department at 231-689-7354 with any questions.



- **DON'T WAIT TO EVACUATE!** Do not wait to be directed by public safety officials to leave. Dam failures are rapidly developing situations. Watch for rapidly changing water levels. Don't wait for an evacuation directive if you feel threatened.
- **FOLLOW EVACUATION ORDERS!** Areas close to the Muskegon River may be directed to evacuate quickly by public safety officials. Leave immediately and follow established routes and instructions to avoid getting caught in rapidly rising water or road congestion. Do not leave your pets behind.
- **EXPECT ALL BRIDGES CROSSING OVER THE MUSKEGON RIVER TO BE CLOSED!**

EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS, WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BE READY

"BE READY" for potential evacuation. Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information. This is the time for preparation and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock. If conditions worsen, public safety personnel may contact residents via Nixle and other comprehensive warning systems directing them to take further action.

PRE-EVACUATION PREPARATION STEPS

When an evacuation is anticipated, follow these checklists (if time allows) to give you and your home the best chance of surviving a flood.

Inside the House

- Shut and lock all windows and doors.
- Gather and elevate important documents, belongings, furniture, and other priceless items including pictures, irreplaceable mementos, and other valuables.
- Check your emergency preparedness kit and store supplies so you can grab them quickly if you need to evacuate. This includes prescription medications.
- Prepare to unplug appliances and turn off your main breaker in your homes electrical box if you need to evacuate.

Outside

- Gather up items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, trash cans, grills, etc.).
- Strap down propane tanks.
- Prepare to turn off propane tanks if you need to evacuate.
- Put your Emergency Supply Kit in your vehicle.
- Back your car into the driveway with vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.
- Don't wait for an evacuation directive if you feel threatened.
- Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave.

Animals

- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.

Please contact the Newaygo County Emergency Services Department at 231-689-7354 with any questions.



- Check your emergency preparedness kit for your pets and store supplies so you can grab them quickly if you need to evacuate.
- If you need to evacuate, take your pets with you.

BE SET

“BE SET” to evacuate. Residents should be prepared to leave at a moment’s notice. This level indicates there is significant danger to the area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area, or if choosing to remain, to be ready to evacuate at a moment’s notice.

Residents MAY have time to gather necessary items, but doing so is at their own risk. Residents should understand, this may be the only notice that they receive. Public Safety personnel cannot guarantee that they will be able to notify them if conditions rapidly deteriorate.

EVACUATION: LEAVE IMMEDIATELY

“GO” Evacuate NOW, LEAVE IMMEDIATELY! Danger to the area is current or imminent, and residents should evacuate immediately. If residents choose to ignore this direction they must understand that public safety personnel may not be available to assist them further.

Residents should NOT delay leaving to gather any belongings. This will be the last notice residents receive. Expect entry to evacuated areas to be denied until conditions are safe.

EVACUATION CENTERS WILL BE ESTABLISHED! Evacuation centers will be established to provide additional assistance and information to homeowners in the impacted area. Nixle Alerts will contain information on the location of the evacuation center.

REMAIN OUT OF THE HAZARD AREA! For your safety, do not return home until directed to do so. The re-entry process is designed for the safe, orderly, and timely return of citizens, emergency responders, business, and critical services following an emergency when immediate re-entry by everyone is neither prudent nor possible. The immediate and/or simultaneous return of all evacuees might not be feasible due to post-event conditions and the need to restore critical infrastructure, protect homes and businesses of evacuees, stabilize and prepare the community for permanent return of its citizens and businesses, and insure the safety of returning citizens. **A specific access and re-entry process will be developed for each incident following a wide-scale evacuation.**

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