

# Dam Safety E-Newsletter



NJDEP BUREAU OF DAM SAFETY  
Climate & Flood Resilience



Fall 2019

## Dam Safety Educational Series



ASDSO has just released the first video in an educational series for dam owners. The video is named 'Dams 101' and it focuses on the types of dams and how they work.

New videos will be posted and available for download through [DamOwner.org](http://DamOwner.org). Please review the other resources on this page including the newly developed dam owner fact sheets. The committee is currently working on three additional videos that will be released in the near future: Dam Inspection, Operation and Maintenance, and Outlet Works.

### Watch Online:

**YouTube** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfAbfjDp8rA>)

### Or Download:

<https://asdso.sharefile.com/d-s09f2d47c08047259>

*And be sure to visit:* <https://damsafety.org/dam-owners>

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## COMING SOON: Updated Guidance for Emergency Action Plans

The Bureau of Dam Safety (Bureau) is currently updating the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Guidelines with important information regarding inundation mapping requirements as well as additional terminology and language involving dams with overtopping protection. The revisions will be consistent with Federal guidelines and will simplify the inundation mapping, making maps more useful for emergency response and planning personnel. These updates are forthcoming on the Bureau's website ([click here](#)) and will be available early 2020. For details in the interim, please contact the Bureau for more information.

VISIT THE BUREAU OF DAM SAFETY  
[WEBSITE](#) TO LEARN MORE



FORMS AND GUIDELINES  
EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN GUIDELINES

## Articulated Concrete Block (ACB) Armoring for Dams

Articulated concrete blocks (ACBs) consist of interconnected concrete units that are installed to form a contiguous hard armoring feature or “mat”. ACB systems typically include a filter/drainage system underneath of the blocks. ACBs are used in a variety of hydraulic applications, including armoring for emergency spillways as well as overtopping protection for dam embankments. Appropriate engineering design and proper installation is critical to the successful performance of an ACB system.

The NRCS has recently released ‘Chapter 54 - Articulated Concrete Block Armored Spillways’ under Part 628 of the National Engineering Handbook which provides guidance for designing ACB systems. The document is available for download from the NRCS website and can be viewed [here](#).

For assistance with ACB project submittal and review requirements, please [click here to view guidelines for ACB design submittals](#). This document is also available on the Bureau’s website under the Forms and Guidelines section.



## Concrete Chute Spillway Evaluation

The Bureau is requiring stability evaluations of existing concrete chute spillways for dams in New Jersey based upon the lessons learned from the Oroville Dam spillway incident in California. This initiative was implemented recently to highlight the importance of re-evaluating the original design and construction of these types of spillways. A thorough evaluation of dams with concrete chute spillways will help to ensure safe operations and determine whether rehabilitation is necessary. The key points of review and assessment should include stability of slabs, hydraulic jacking potential, and investigations of as-built conditions. Owners of dams with concrete chute spillways are encouraged to discuss evaluation of these structures with their engineering consultants and the Bureau.



## OROVILLE FORENSICS REPORT

The Bureau suggests utilizing Section 7 - Comprehensive Facility Reviews of the Oroville Forensics Report as a reference document during concrete chute spillway evaluations.



## Public Notifications for Dam Removals

Public notification is required with an application to remove an existing dam in New Jersey. Applicants must provide evidence that all adjoining property owners of the impoundment and the municipality where the dam is located have received notification that an application has been submitted to the Department to remove or breach the dam. Additionally, applicants must publish a legal notice of the submitted removal application in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the municipality where the reservoir or dam is located and submit proof of publication to the Bureau. In an effort to assist dam owners who wish to remove their dams, the Bureau has developed a standard letter template and legal notice for public notifications for dam removals (available [here](#)).

View a template letter for public notification at [www.nj.gov/dep/damsafety/forms](http://www.nj.gov/dep/damsafety/forms)



Dam Removal - Hughesville

## New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

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## Helpful Dam Safety Links

[Association of State Dam Safety Officials](#)

[Responsible Dam Ownership](#)

[Living With Dams](#)

[FEMA - National Dam Safety Program](#)

[Bureau of Reclamation - Dam Safety Program](#)

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

Visit our website at [www.nj.gov/dep/damsafety/](http://www.nj.gov/dep/damsafety/)