WHAT ARE FLOOD INUNDATION MAPS?

Flood inundation maps show possible flooding near dams. Each map represents how water might behave and how the dam might react. Shaded areas show where water may go upstream and downstream of dams, including how far it may extend past the banks of a river or waterway and how deep it may be.

HOW ARE THESE MAPS USED?

Emergency managers, community leaders, and decision makers can use dam-related flood inundation maps to understand what types of flooding may occur, who and what could be damaged or in harm’s way, and how much time there might be to give evacuation notice in an area that may flood. These maps are important for the development of emergency action plans, evacuation plans, and other emergency response activities.
WHERE CAN I FIND THESE MAPS?

The National Inventory of Dams (NID), a congressionally authorized database that documents dams in the U.S. and its territories, includes these maps when available. A basic map is available for all dams in the NID that shows the location of the dam. When available, flood inundation layers can be toggled on or off within the map. More detailed information is available using the “Advanced Map” tool.

Flood inundation maps are not yet available for all dams in the NID. We encourage you to check the NID on a regular basis to see newly added and updated maps or reach out to the NID team for more information at NID@usace.army.mil.

WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS OF THESE MAPS?

While flood inundation maps are extremely useful in illustrating possible scenarios, they do not explain the likelihood of an event occurring. These maps are developed using the best available information. Preparing these maps includes many assumptions and uncertainties: flooding may not occur in real-time exactly as shown and actual conditions may vary from the estimated extent and timing of flooding depicted on the map. Individuals trying to understand if they will be impacted by potential flooding should talk to local officials who can offer advice on how to prepare before a flood occurs.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact the NID Team at NID@usace.army.mil, with any questions about the information included on the National Inventory of Dams.