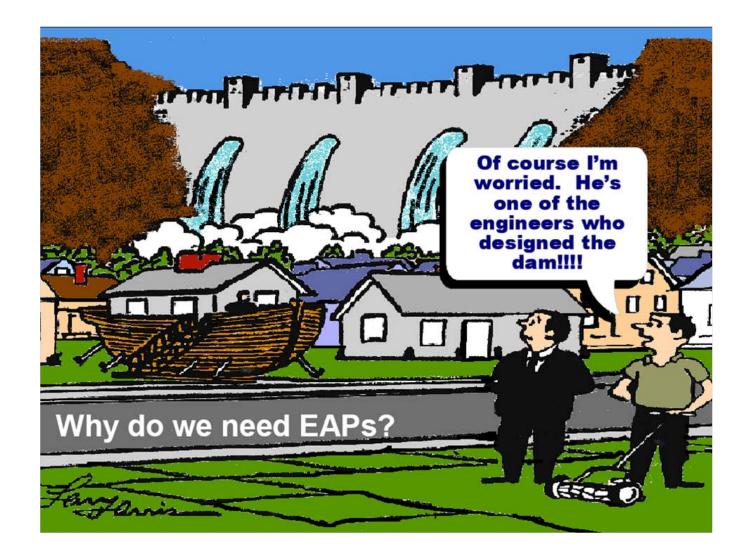
#### DSEPs & TRAINING

By Paul Heinrichs

# Background

- STANDARDS USED FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, O&M AND SURVEILLANCE OF DAMS ENDEAVOUR TO MINIMISE RISK OF DAM FAILURE.
- UNUSUAL EVENTS OR ACTIONS COULD STILL RESULT IN DAM FAILURE OR DAMAGING STORAGE RELEASES.
- PRUDENT FOR DAM OWNERS TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL EMERGENCY SITUATIONS & PLAN TO MITIGATE EFFECTS

#### **OLD JOKE**



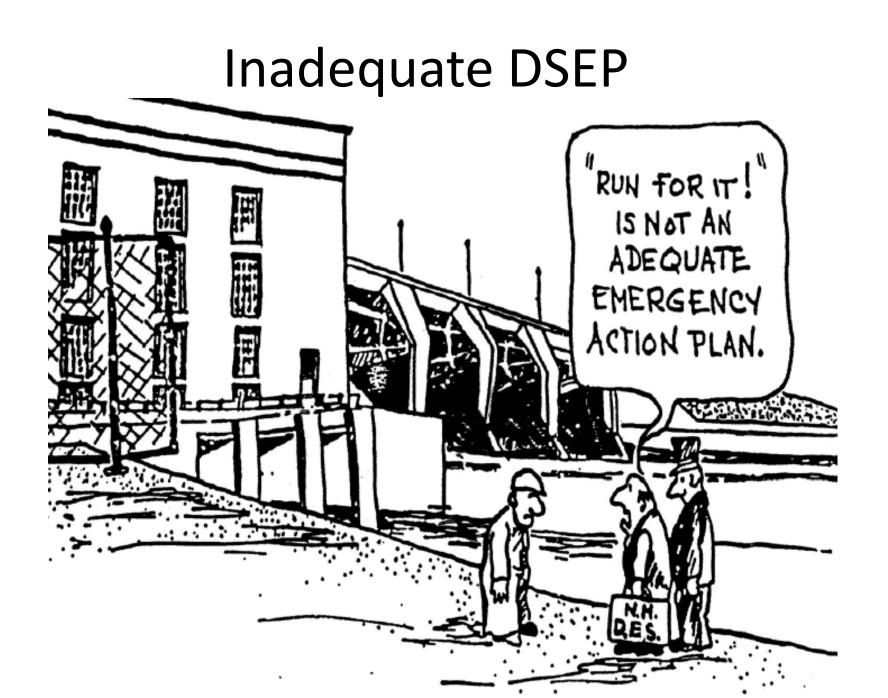
# DSC Requirement

- Dambreak studies required where
- loss of life or significant threat to
- community interests could result
- from dam failure
- • A quality controlled Dam Safety
- Emergency Plan (DSEP) is required
- for dams where persons may be at
- risk if the dam failed

## **Emergency Plan Types**

Two types of Emergency Plans are required in NSW

- A Dam Safety Emergency Plan (DSEP) developed by the dam owner.
- A separate Flood Emergency Plan developed by the SES to provide protection for downstream communities in emergency situations.



#### SES has to deal with this



# DSEPs

- Are site and owner specific
- Are required for all significant & higher consequence category dams.
- Identify conditions that could endanger dams & require action.
- Prescribe procedures to be followed by dam personnel to mitigate emergency conditions.
- Specify notification protocols to emergency authorities for their implementation of timely protective measures downstream.

### SES Involvement

- Dam owners must consult SES
   State Headquarters during DSEP
   preparation (see Appendix B for
   helpful checklist) and provide SES
- with relevant dambreak information

#### **SES Responsibility**

WARNING

#### Tempe Town Lake

#### **Emergency Warning System -**

Lights and sirens have been mounted on these poles to provide critical information that may affect your safety.

The warning systems are located on the north side of the lake:

- · at the the upstream and downstream dams
- midway between Rural Rd. and Mill Ave. bridges

Lights and sirens are used to identify safety hazards:

• A White light flashes when the wind reaches 15 mph.

The frequency of light flashes increase as the wind speed increases.

• A Yellow light flashes when lightning is detected within 10 miles.

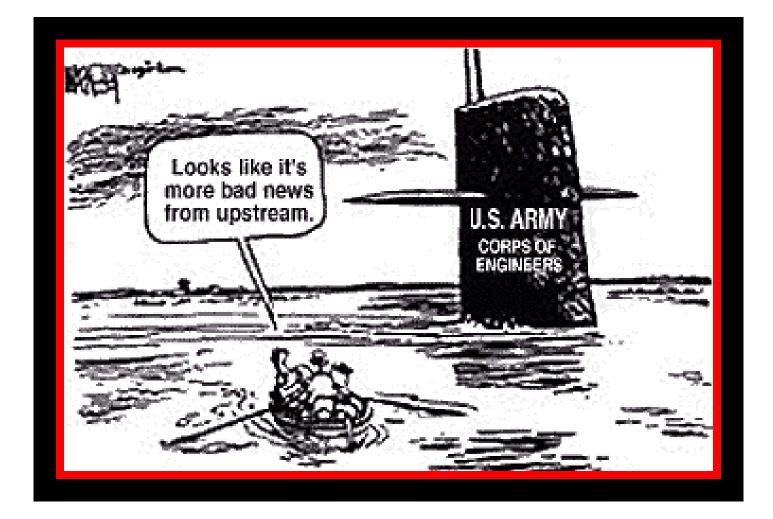
• A Red light and siren means that you must evacuate the lake and secure your boat as quickly as possible.

#### **Campground Warning Sign**



# DSC 2G

- Owner initiates DSEP formulation or review
- 2. Owner consults with SES
- 3. Owner drafts DSEP and forwards to DSC for
- review/audit
- 4. DSC reviews and sends comments to owner for revision
- 5. Owner revises DSEP and sends to SES to review
- emergency contact arrangements
- 6. SES reviews draft DSEP and sends comments to owner
- 7. Owner revises DSEP and sends to DSC for
- endorsement
- 8. Owner distributes DSEP after DSC endorsement



# **Owners Responsibility**

Dam owners must:

- 1. Develop and maintain a DSEP for significant and higher consequence category dams. Their preparation requires careful research and coordinated planning.
- 2. Determine emergency forewarning conditions for their dams and mitigating actions to be taken.
- 3. Determine indicative downstream inundation effects for relevant floods through their dams (ie levels, extent, timing).

### Owner's Inspector MUST Recognise and Report Failure Indicators



Natural Resources Conservation Service



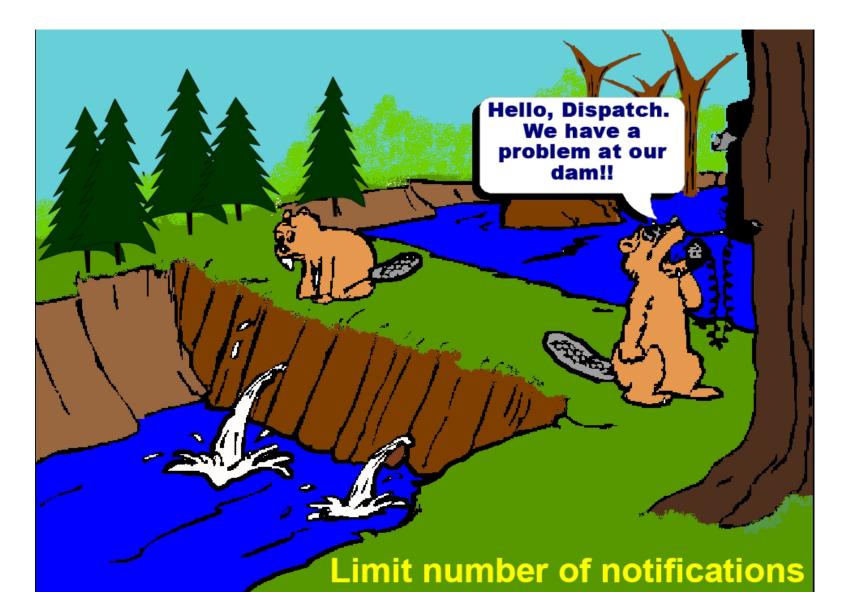
## Owners 2

- Identify and establish a communication system (with back-ups) and timetable for timely and updated warnings to emergency authorities of impending emergencies.
- Provide emergency authorities with details of owner's response actions and downstream effects (ie levels, timing).

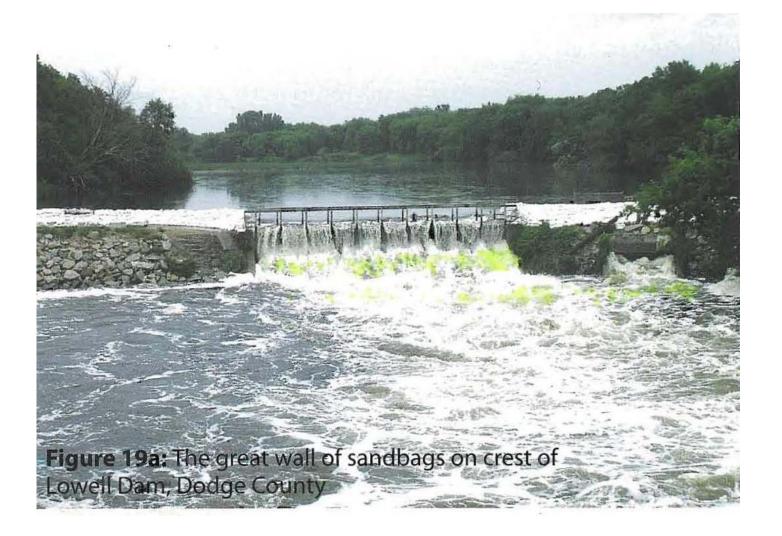
## Owners 3

- 6. Identify resources, equipment, access etc required in emergencies.
- 7. Ensure adequately trained personnel available to act in emergencies.
- 8. Identify and co-ordinate DSEP development with all parties involved.

#### **Communications are VITAL**



#### **Owners Actions can save dam**



#### Sandbags by owners



## They got it EARLY



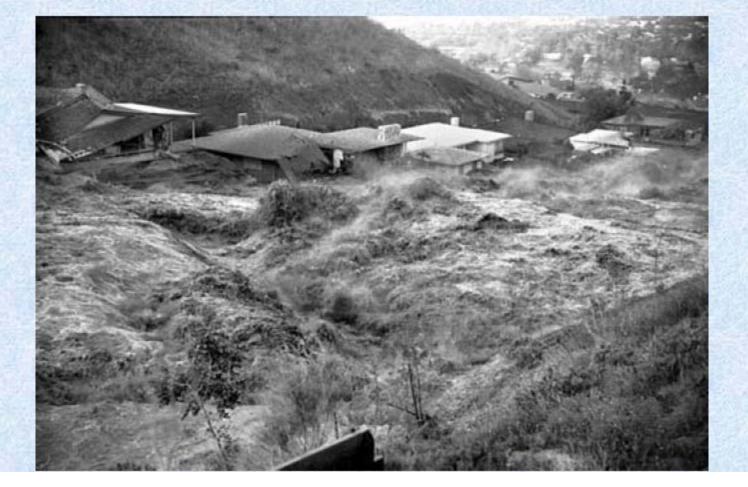
#### Owner can open the gates



# **Baldwin Hills**

California - December 14, 1963

Damages: > \$21 million Fatalities: 5



### Owners 4

- 9. Develop draft DSEP and notification flowcharts.
- 10. Hold meetings, get comments on draft DSEP (incl. DSC & SES).
- 11. Revise & disseminate control copies as "Interim DSEP"
- 12. Test and revise DSEP at regular intervals (ie update contacts annually, test five yearly)becomes dated version of DSEP after first trial.
- 13. Report on DSEP performance in Surveillance Reports

## Regularly TEST the plans

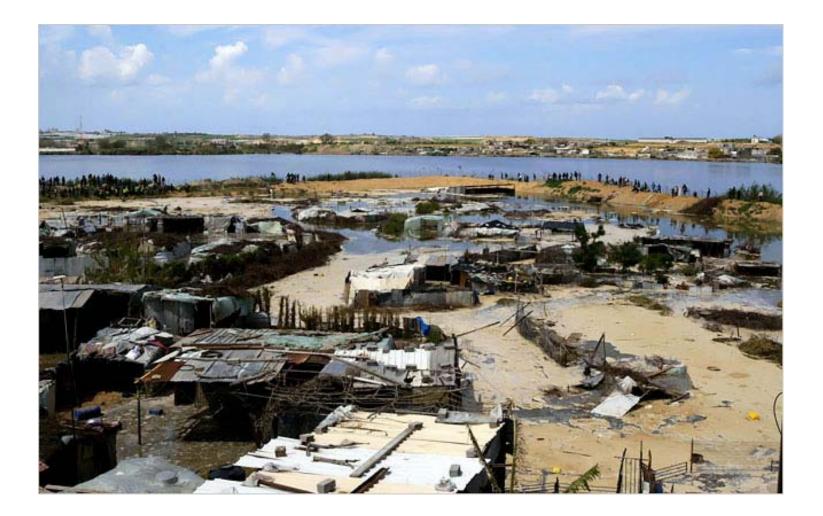
Emergency Action Plan Exercises
Tabletop exercise every 3 years
Functional exercise every 6 years



# **DSEP Contents**

- 1. Introduction
  - Title
  - Purpose Statement
  - Notification Flowchart
- 2. Responsibilities
  - Surveillance and O&M
  - DSEP Implementation
- 3. Emergency Identification
  - Surveillance Triggers
  - Action Procedures

#### **Emergency Identification**



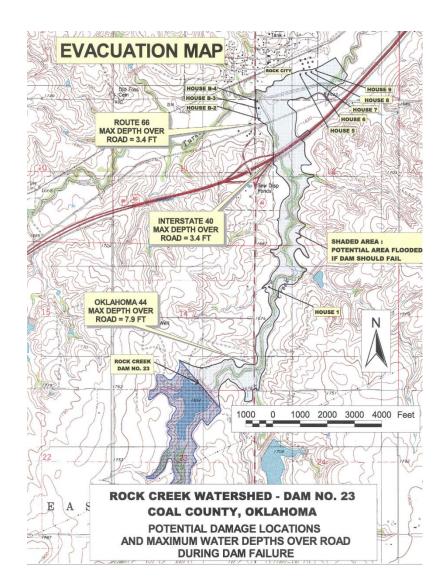
# Contents

- 4. Notification
  - Who
  - Priority
  - Planning
- 5. Attendance/Communication Procedures
  - Monitoring
  - Warning Systems
  - Access
  - Communication

# Contents

- 6. Inundation Mapping
  - Extent
  - Timing
  - Depths
  - Velocities
- 7. Preventative Actions
  - Detection
  - Operational Aspects
  - Adverse Time Response
  - Emergency Needs
  - Co-ordination

#### **Inundation** Map



## Contents

- 8. Appendices
  - Dam Location / Description
  - Flooding Background Info
  - Emergency Event Recording
  - DSEP Training
  - DSEP Review / Update

# Alerts

- Dam failure alerts (white, amber and red) are
- used to trigger emergency response actions.
- • White-defect noted or heavy rain-preliminary
- alert-SES notified and check readiness
- • Amber-failure possible if continues-SES
- warns PAR to prepare to evacuate-SES
- Evacuation Warning
- • Red-failure imminent-PAR evacuated by
- SES-SES Evacuation Order

### Avoid "Too Early" Alerts



#### Very Small Alert Time



# **Alert Triggers**

- High and Extreme Consequence dams are to
- have telemetered storage level monitoring
- (and preferably rainfall and seepage as well)
- High and Extreme Consequence basins are
- to have telemetered monitoring of rainfall nearby
- New High and Extreme Consequence dams
- are to have telemetered seepage/tailwater Monitoring.

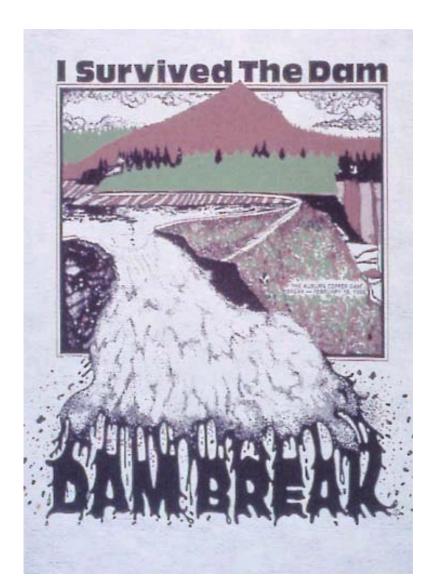
### Ensure Trigger System Works as Designed



### Trigger Went off Late!



# If all else fails buy the T-shirt



# TRAINING

- Training by PWD began in 1991 (at Coffs H)
- Resulted from lack of knowledge of dam operators in dam inspections
- Since then nearly 40 courses been run by PWD with assistance of DSC
- Over 1200 operators been trained
- To date courses have been SEMI-formal (accredited but not run through RTO)

#### **Training Course Practical inspection**



# Why Training

- Inspectors MUST be able to recognise failure indicators
- They MUST know who to report to and who they can rely on in emergency
- Early recognition of problems can result in repairs which stop progression to failure
- Build up a RECORD of the dams physical state with time so that change indicators can be picked up

# Training/DSEP

- DSEPs success depends on owner being able to get a warning to the SES
- AND
- Inspectors ability to communicate problems through EARLY recognition of indicators

#### At Present

- 2 Types of Courses
- TAFE accredited :- gives 4 units towards Certificate III of Water Operators Course
- Will involve more in-depth assessment but will allow Certificate holder to work on any dam as qualified inspector
- Non TAFE (as per existing) NO CHANGE

## NEXT COURSES

• 2 in NOVEMBER 2012 at Port Macquarie

• 2 in FEBRUARY (/MARCH?) 2013 probably at Port Macquarie

# DSC REQUIREMENT

- DSC still requires operators to be trained and to have refreshers at 5 year intervals
- DSC does NOT insist on operators having the TAFE endorsed certificate (YET)
- DSC administers the courses since I left NOW

# COMMERCIAL

- What can PWD Dams & Civil do for Council?
- (For a fee)
- 1. Inspection of dams (annual audit and specials)
- 2. Prepare Surveillance reports
- 3. Preparation of DSEPs. Provide Technical advice during emergency, Testing of DSEPs
- 4. Risk Assessments/ dambreak studies /LOL
- 5. Design of new dams and upgrades of at risk dams
- 6. Instrumentation Review
- 7. O&M Manuals

#### Yibbity Yibbita.....

