**EightMile Lake Dam Response**

Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the problem with the dam?**

*There is no imminent threat*. However, a 2017 wildfire decimated vegetation around the deteriorating dam on Eightmile Lake, leaving the area vulnerable to erosion, flash flooding and possible dam failure that could impact downstream homes and property. The dam in the Alpine Wilderness Area, serves as a water source for the Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation Districts (IPID).

**Chelan County Emergency Management Department** is working with the IPID, the U.S. Forest Service, National Weather Service, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Emergency Management and the community to assure all downstream residents are safe during this period of repair at the dam.

## **What’s the most current info on dam conditions?**

Dam repair efforts are under way. Phase 1 of the interim action plan was substantially completed May 17. That phase reshapes and armors the crest of the dam to act as a spillway, which greatly increases the dam's ability to safely pass water. The next phase will be to install a siphon to allow access to the dam’s outlet pipe which is clogged and not passing much water.

The dam is designated as a high hazard dam because of the number of residences downstream of the dam that could be impacted should a catastrophic failure occur.

Please monitor Chelan Emergency Management’s Facebook Page for the most current updates. Also information is available on the Chelan County Emergency Management website <http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/sheriff/pages/emergency-management?parent=Units>

## **What should I do if I live downstream from the dam?**

Chelan County Emergency Management has gathered as many cell phone numbers, landline phone numbers as possible and entered those into the [AlertSense](http://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/?regionid=1184) mass notification system.

To register your information on the AlertSense Chelan County notification system, please go to the following link: <http://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/?regionid=1184>

If you are an Icicle Creek resident or property owner, we ask that you contact the Chelan County Emergency Management Office to register your name and contact information with us. We will be happy to answer any questions concerning this notification. **Call us (509) 667-6863**

## **How will I be notified through AlertSense?**

You will receive a text message and/phone message in an emergency situation. We also have the ability to broadcast a message to any cellular phone within the area as long as the device has service.  Further, we will implement door to door contacts using deputies, fire district personnel, and trained volunteers.

## **What kind of monitoring is occurring at the dam site?**

The Department of Ecology has installed a gage to measure the lake level and another streamflow gage below the dam, which will provide real time information about conditions in and around the dam and prompt emergency alert systems. A satellite solar powered camera system and rain gages are also planned and will be installed soon to increase monitoring in the area.

## **What are the conditions of the other six dams located in the Alpine Lake Wilderness?**

The Icicle and Peshastin Irrigation Districts own three other dams that drain into Icicle Creek. They are all rated as low-hazard dams. Ecology is planning inspections at those dams this summer to assess hazard and condition. In addition, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service owns three dams that drain into Icicle Creek. They are low-hazard dams and fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service dam safety program.

## **What about campgrounds and hiking? Is the Alpine Lakes area open?**

Most Forest Service campgrounds located on the Wenatchee River Ranger District in the Icicle drainage along the #7600 road are now open. The only campground that is not open is Chatter Creek Campground, due to a hazard tree issue within the campground.

The #1552 trail to Eightmile Lake is logged out and open for day and overnight use.

Eightmile Lake is part of the Enchantments permit system, and overnight campers need to obtain a permit to camp overnight, online through recreation.gov.

Day users just need to fill out a free Wilderness permit available at the trailhead. There are warning signs at the trailhead talking about the motorized equipment located at the dam site and hazards in the burned area. Forest Service Recreation updates can be found here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/okawen/recreation>

## **Where can I learn more about the dam response online?**

For **general information on the dam response**, you may check out the Chelan County Emergency Management website <http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/sheriff/pages/emergency-management?parent=Units> and the Chelan County EM Facebook page.

For information regarding **hiking trails, camping** and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness area, visit the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/okawen/recreation>

For information related to **dam safety oversite and monitoring** administered by the Washington Department of Ecology, visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/>