STORM PREPAREDNESS

Image courtesy of Google Images
In preparing for those severe summer storms, one might take the time to locate the old, faithful flashlight and make sure the batteries still work. This is also an excellent occasion to find your emergency action plan (EAP) and dust it off, too. Your EAP is a “living document” requiring routine attention to ensure it stays current. Remember the maps, too! Have there been significant changes in the areas downstream of the dam? Are there new bridges, housing developments, or schools? Keeping your inundation maps up to date is just as important as the body of your EAP. So, just like that flashlight, take a few minutes to ensure your EAP is ready to aid you during bad weather.

Want to take it up a notch? Why not schedule an EAP exercise? One of the easiest exercises is an annual phone drill. Set a date and time to notify all individuals or agencies in your notification flow charts in advance, as this will give them an opportunity to pull out (or find) their copy of the EAP and take a look at it. Have the individuals and agencies follow through the EAP notification flow charts just as you would during an emergency event. Track the progress during the exercise and follow up with any concerns or complications noted during the drill.

Although NOAA is predicting a near- or below-normal Atlantic hurricane season, 8–13 named storms, including 3–6 hurricanes, are probable.

For smaller watersheds, intense thunderstorms present greater risks. They are far more numerous than tropical storms and offer very limited warning of their arrival and intensity.

**IT TAKES JUST ONE STORM TO CAUSE A DISASTER**

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Those with key roles come together to practice situations when you have to activate your EAP. Think of it as having all your neighbors helping to get prepared for weathering the storm. Everyone gets to review and discuss their role in an emergency event as well as understand what other members are doing. Work through mock emergency scenarios and discuss how each entity can aid the others.

PRACTICING NOW WILL MAKE THE REAL THING EASIER TO HANDLE
WELCOME TO SCHNABEL!

Thomas E. Hepler, PE, recently joined our Greensboro, NC office. Tom, formerly with the Interior Department’s Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Waterways and Concrete Dams Group, brings over 35 years of experience in hydraulic and structural engineering designs for concrete dams and appurtenant structures to our team of dam engineering experts.

He served as a Technical Specialist, Team Leader, Principal Designer, Senior Engineer, and Technical Reviewer for dam safety inspections, dam modifications, dam removals, and spillway modifications for numerous projects throughout the country. Tom is an active member of USSD, ASCE, and ASDSO, and currently serves on USSD’s Committee on Concrete Dams and Committee on Dam Decommissioning (as past Chair). He received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from the University of Missouri-Rolla. Tom can be reached at 336-274-9456 or at thepler@schnabel-eng.com.

WHO’S BEING PROMOTED!

Joseph S. Monroe, PE, to Principal. For more than 20 years, Joe has been heavily involved in the design and construction of new dams, as well as the rehabilitation of existing dams. His depth of experience in design includes geotechnical explorations and engineering evaluations for both earthfill dams and concrete gravity dams, hydraulic and structural design of spillways, and preparation of bidding and construction documents. In addition to design related functions, Joe has also provided construction administration duties during the implementation of the design for which he had responsible charge.

Joe is an Engineer of Record for Georgia’s Safe Dams Program, specializing in geotechnical engineering, hydrology and hydraulics, and civil engineering. He currently serves as Branch Leader for our Alpharetta, GA, office and can be reached at 770-781-8088 or via email at jmonroe@schnabel-eng.com.

Schnabel is pleased to announce that Dave Campbell, PE, D.WRE, Director of Dam Engineering, is the inaugural recipient of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers (AAWRE) Outstanding Practitioner in Water Resources Engineering Award. The annual award was established to recognize a Diplomate who has demonstrated significant contributions to environmental or water resources engineering through engineering practice. Read more at http://goo.gl/COUkVs

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